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CONFIDENTIAL.

(8548.)

PART III.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF

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Further Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Arabia.

Part III.

No. 1.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 1.)

(No. 269.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April 22, 1905.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copies of despatches from His Majesty's Consular officers at Jeddah and Hodeida, giving valuable and interesting reports on the affairs of the Yemen from the beginning of September last, with special reference to the course of the Arab revolt in that vilayet.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure 1 in No. 1.

Consul Devey to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 18.)

Sir, *Jeddah, February 12, 1905.*

I HAVE the honour to forward reports on the Vilayets of Hedjaz and Yemen for the period of the 30th September, 1904, to the 31st January, 1905, and to remain, &c.

(Signed) G. P. DEVEY.

P.S., 12th March, 1905.—I regret that the completion and transmission of this report has been delayed by various and frequent interruptions, but am now able to reopen the letter, so as to include the latest news respecting the revolt in Yemen—Vice-Consul Richardson's No. 26, of the 2nd instant, received to-day.

G. P. D.

Inclosure 2 in No. 1.

Report on the Economic and Administrative State of the Hedjaz Vilayet, October 1904 to February 1905.

Political Troubles.—The concluding months of 1903 were showing a sadly disturbed state of affairs, both in Hedjaz and Asir, and the present outlook from Jeddah is again very unsatisfactory as regards Ottoman rule and supremacy in many parts of Arabia, while it was feared recently that the pilgrim season here would not pass without serious trouble.

Yemen Revolt.—To begin with Yemen, the Imam's revolt of last August grew progressively more serious and difficult to deal with, and at the close of the year, just

when the newly-designated Vali-Moavin of that vilayet was passing Jeddah on the voyage to his post, it was rumoured here that Sana'a had fallen to the assaults of 60,000 Arabs, and all Turkish officials and soldiers, as also foreigners, found in the city were massacred. This rumour has again just been repeated, but the Vice-Consul's report shows what really took place.

Asir.—The large force of regular troops assembled at Comfida a year ago apparently took no steps towards restoring their lately shipwrecked prestige; very few of them marched more than 30 miles from the coast, and now they are beginning to be withdrawn. Assir may be taken to be practically self-governing for the most part, with very little show of Ottoman authority.

Aden.—Recent developments as to the Aden frontier question would also seem to have attracted some attention and aroused suspicion in these parts, though, in view of the long time since the Commission began work, it would surely be time for the production of final results.

Nejd.—It is now three years since Abdul Aziz-ibn-Feysul (commonly called Bin Saoud) suddenly seized the town of Riad with a mere handful of Wahabi warriors, and, establishing his authority without excesses, began the warfare which is now attaining such noteworthy proportions. The reign of the blind and decrepit Feysul-ibn-Saoud having ended in 1865, just after Sir L. Pelly's visit to Riad, his martial son Abdullah, already Regent, acceded, but soon after his half-brother Saoud (reincarnating the story of Romulus and Remus) revolted and drove him out. Abdullah called the Turks to his assistance, who did little besides seizing Hasa for themselves in 1871; however, Saoud having died three years later, Abdullah resumed the government of Riad till 1886, when Mohammed-bin-Rashid, intervening on account of insurrection, descended from Hayil and seized the opportunity of extending his kingdom over all Central Arabia, ruling justly and strongly till his death eleven years later.

Abdul Aziz (bin Mitaab), of the "Ibn Rashid," succeeding at Hayil, has proved so far (as anticipated at once in 1896) to have little of the influence, character, and power of his stern father, Mohammed. By the latter, the insurrection at Riad in 1890, and, again, Zamil's more widespread rising of 1892, were speedily and completely crushed, but in 1900 Abdul Aziz showed but little determination to maintain his sway, and Feysul, having re-established his family rule in 1902, set out to attack his over-lord, Bin Rashid, with success. In January 1903 Bin Saoud won another important success, and fourteen months later seems to have consolidated his victories. Finally, last summer he overcame Turkish troops who were supporting Bin Rashid.

Rumours in the Hedjaz now indicate that the Sultan is sending a very considerable expedition to annihilate Bin Saoud, and will not hear of his submitting and holding the administration of his rightful province.

But in Hedjaz only mere driblets of information are to be gleaned as to the real state of affairs in Nejd. Bin Rashid from the first appears to have chosen to have little to do with Mecca, and to communicate with the Turkish Government through Syria or Bagdad. This has naturally vexed Hedjaz authorities, and perhaps accounts in part for a certain lukewarmness on the part of Ahmed Ratib Pasha in forwarding support for his cause. Bin Saoud, on the other hand, submits to the Grand Shereef occasional appeals, which are said to meet with but scant favour.

Ahmed Feizi Pasha is believed now to be approaching Hayil, and a "Liva" Muhieddin Pasha, his son-in-law, has just arrived, who, after the Mecca pilgrimage, will proceed to Medina as Mufettish to oversee arrangements for any movement thence in support of Feizi's force.

As the Damascus-Mecca Railway advances, it is clearly most necessary for Turkey to find a strong and well-disposed State touching Hedjaz in Shammar and Kassim, but not equally so to convert this into a Turkish province. To leave the two disputants Bin Rashid and Saoud to go on alternately vanquishing one another as during the past century will be hardly tolerable, but to assign their boundaries after effecting a reconciliation and to protect efficaciously the Hedjaz side should be sufficient. The idea of reducing both countries at once, and establishing Turkish domination with Bin Rashid as their puppet, seems, however, to have commended itself to the Turks, but whether this will turn out well or not is a problem not easy to resolve.

Hedjaz.—During last pilgrim season very frequent robberies and outrages of every kind were taking place, but this year there is more quietude. As this state of turbulence had attracted attention and called forth strong remonstrance from various quarters, steps were taken to enforce some degree of order, but still Bedouin malpractices were continuing through the summer into the autumn, so that early in October the Grand Shereef prepared a large levy (some 3,000 to 4,000, mostly of the Oteiba tribe) to go to punish

the Harb tribes, in particular the Moabhad. If there is more quiet just now, I may say that this is solely due to a more liberal distribution of supplies and funds to the tribal Sheikhs and Chiefs this year. The Shereef's expedition, for want of supplies, and generally in absence of all discipline, returned to Mecca after a fortnight's outing without having accomplished anything, if silence should be kept as to their rumoured exploits of stopping or plundering innocent travellers on the way to Mecca. I may mention in this respect a trifling anecdote: The aged Omar Nassif Effendi of this town (ex-agent of the Grand Shereef) was shortly afterwards spending the month of Ramazan at Mecca, and, on his Highness inquiring one night what the Jeddah townsfolk had thought of this expedition, replied with his usual cautious but caustic humour that they had actually forgotten to talk about Port Arthur and Manchuria, so entirely had their attention been diverted to this display of activity, recalling the saying as to busying giddy minds with foreign quarrels.

Bazaar Rumours.—The local bazaar rumours have been very remarkable as to the Russo-Japanese struggle, and often, indeed, in advance of real events. Even last summer voyagers from the Persian Gulf by an occasional Russian ship would arrive in fear and trepidation of capture by some (purely imaginary) Japanese cruiser. Public sentiment seems to be distinctly anti-Russian, although this should not be so, if one is to judge from the material point of view, for Russia contributes considerably toward the annual pilgrimage, and a trifling proportion also of the imports of this country, whereas Japan's interests and trade are practically nil.

Health and Rainfall.—The public health in Hedjaz continues excellent, with no infectious diseases, and in spite of the comparatively cold weather recorded recently. The rainfall of the last three months has been rather more than for some years past; but the small quantity which has fallen in this town and neighbourhood is likely to produce as much harm as benefit, seeing that the old cement cisterns have been covered to the depth of a few inches only. At Yembo, however, there was abundant rain, and thus the pilgrims' wants will be fully met, while the numerous battalions of troops that have lately been passing to and fro will also have found good water in plenty. In general, too, the Bedouins will do better with their flocks and herds. The sanitation of the chief towns of the Hedjaz has been attended to, and the long-promised condensers (for Abu-Saad at least, if not for Yembo) are on the way.

The Haj.—The year's pilgrimage is now just attaining completion, and in spite of the slowness of arrivals in the beginning and the falling off of numbers from Yemen on account of the troubles there, and also of Malays and Javanese for various reasons, and besides the existence of plague at Aden, and a few cases at Suez, with the consequent quarantines, the attendance has been more than an average one; the absentees have been more than accounted for by the very unusually large number—14,000—from Egypt, and there have come some 12,000 from India, though Turks and those from the Barbary States may be rather fewer than usual. A strong escort, 400 troops with three guns, in this season accompanying the Egyptian Mahmal, as last year difficulty was experienced in their progress to Medina. The health of the 60,000 arrived has been good, and no disease has been observed save that five or six ships from Bombay had small-pox cases aboard. There are now twenty-five large pilgrim-ships in harbour, twelve British, five Turkish, three French, two Russian, two Greek, and one Italian, which will in a fortnight's time be re-embarking some 30,000 of the Hajis for the return home, or for the visit to Medina viâ Yembo.

Administration.—No special changes have to be reported, but just a month ago the resignation of Vali-Kaimakam Ali Yumni was said to have been accepted. He therefore continues in office only until his successor shall arrive. Sherket Pasha's and other names have been suggested in respect of the appointment, but none has yet been selected. It is believed in the meantime that, the Vali disapproved of any definite appointment being made too hastily, and that if Ali Yumni should cease to remain Acting Kaimakam, his Excellency would send some officer from Mecca to be temporary stop-gap.

In the last Report of this series (*vide* No. 95 of the 23rd October, 1904) it was said that the Vali and Grand Shereef had undertaken most seriously to maintain better order in the district, more especially in respect of the pilgrim roads, and these assurances have been fairly well fulfilled during the past four months. Nevertheless, it was with a feeling of most unsatisfactory anxiety that the preparation of the Medina Haj caravan a few weeks ago was being watched, and, only now, its safe arrival and return to Mecca is noted with relief. The quieter state of the country is simply due to the fact that Bedouin tribal Chiefs and camel owners have received rather more than usual—perhaps 15 to 20 per cent.—and a sum of 3,000*l.* is being distributed besides, as a gratuity, to cover any arrears of annual allowances due to the Sheikhs.

Vali's Visit to Jeddah.—The unusually long residence of his Excellency from April to November was commented upon in the last Report, and ascribed to one cause or another; still that the Vali should occasionally make long sojourns here, thereby cultivating relations with the foreign Consulates and Europeans resident in his district, is desirable.

His functions, while absent from Mecca, were carried on by the Grand Shereef, which arrangement gave satisfaction generally, and was interpreted as a token of mutual esteem and confidence between the parties, and of trust and reliance on the part of the Porte. His Highness' health is, however, as previously reported, seriously undermined.

The unfortunate fact of Mecca being the vilayet head-quarters precludes the foreign Consuls from acquaintance with the more important Government functionaries, members of the Council, &c., military or other officers. These, on arrival, seldom delay an hour, but hasten on at once to join their post.

Shipping Notes.—Trade during the last four months received its regular yearly impetus from the frequent arrival of pilgrim-ships, but while commercial freights have kept steady, pilgrim traffic rates were unusually depressed owing to competition, and fares from Turkey and Syria have also been very low. The Russia Line steamers, which make the Odessa–Bussorah run, continue to call occasionally and are found useful for direct transmission between Jeddah and Constantinople, but it is to be regretted that their management is extremely lax, and lately a regrettable scandal occurred in respect of specie shipped in one of them. The Italian Company, Florio Rubattino, was last year contemplating a periodical visit to Jeddah, but seems now to have given up the idea.

Railways.—Of the Hedjas Railway, we hear vaguely that progress is being made towards Medain Salih, and possibly the metals might be laid in eighteen months' time; but of the Mecca–Jeddah line no further glimpse of prospects has emanated. The Acaba branch has been recognized as very necessary, once more, with regard to the several military movements lately issuing thence.

In telegraphy the Hedjas should afford a capital field for wireless experiments, but the chief difficulty seems to lie in the lack of skilled operators in Turkey. The once-mooted cable from Acaba, making the ever-more-wished-for link with Yembo, remains likely never to see realization.

Harbour, &c.—The state of the harbour has been rather less unsatisfactory lately, though it is surely anticipated that, unless radical measures be taken, the boat channel will be silted up within a comparatively short period. The rebuilding of the Thetis beacon continues to be neglected. The Health Office, however, have begun to execute some works upon Abu-Saad Island, with a view to the location of the condenser already above mentioned.

On the other hand, the proposals for rebuilding the custom-house depôt and offices, which were talked of two or three years ago, have presumably been altogether forgotten and abandoned.

No piracies have been brought to my knowledge during the four months, but those of last summer have remained unpunished.

A list of indemnities for robbery, for which recourse has been had to the local authorities, is annexed.

Slavery.—To conclude with a few remarks upon "slavery in the Red Sea," though the subject can scarce be named without a covert smile in allusion to Beaconsfield's newly-published novel. For the past twenty-five years this contraband import has been constantly diminishing, till now the term "kidnapping" should apply more accurately than "slave traffic." In a small way this goes on very occasionally from the thinly inhabited coasts opposite, while now and again slaves from this town make their escape to Suakim.

Owing to the recent famine and very disturbed state of Yemen, some few (Arabs and others) girls and young women have been again abducted from that province, although public opinion unreservedly condemns the practice and local authorities try to prevent it. Except for the Mecca pilgrimage, opportunity then offering for secret purchase and sale, the demand would be extremely trifling. The true Bedouin, however, still holds to every title of his ancient rights in slavery, and exacts the respect of them (which he accords to others freely) perhaps more absolutely and tenaciously than any other of his rights, and scarcely ever is he known to manumit voluntarily, or even conditionally, as by agreeing to self-redemption.

Regularly every year about a dozen slave cases are disposed of with the help of the local authorities at this Consulate. Usually about eight of these will be male town

slaves, and far too commonly so aged and decrepit as to be of little further use to their masters, who are only anxious to be relieved of the expense of their maintenance. In such cases a little light employment is provided here, and some kind-hearted person finds an occasion for charity. So, also, not unfrequently a pilgrim comes to the Holy Land under release of a vow to emancipate a slave, and suitable subjects of benevolence can then be offered him. The Vali himself, it is said, often practices this form of charity, and has procured by purchase during the last ten years the freedom of eighty or ninety able-bodied slaves who may have had some reasonable, even if slight, cause of complaint against their master.

Quite recently it was alleged that secret orders had been placed in this district for ten eunuchs to be purchased for the Palace, and that these had been procured after much search and difficulty at a cost of 600*l.* each, whereas formerly the price would range from 150*l.* to 400*l.*, the latter figure being paid for a young well-bred and most carefully-educated person. This would go to show how much scarcer the supply has been growing, and, whilst the demand is nowadays limited almost exclusively to the Palace, such an order as the above only issues about once in four or five years.

Jeddah, February 12, 1905.

List of Claims for Robberies during the Year 1904.

No.	Names of Claimants.	Date of Occurrence.	Date of Petition.	Date of Commencement.	Place of Occurrence.	Amount claimed.	Description of Goods robbed.
1	Mohamed S. Ishak Alhawkhi	November 5, 1903	November 5, 1903	November 5, 1903	Mocha Road	T. Frs. p. 1,277 60	Rice.
2	"	July 4, 1904	June 4, 1904	June 4, 1904	Medina Road	2,800 00	Wheat.
3	Mohamed Ibrahim Sonah	"	July	July	Mocha Road	12,340 00	Piece-goods.
4	Abdul Kadir Haberdalla	"	"	"	"	4,500 00	Cloth.
5	Ahmed Jaa-Abdalla and Co.	"	"	"	"	16,800 00	Piece-goods.
6	Abdul Kadir Haberdalla	"	"	"	"	27,450 00	Piece-goods and rice.
7	Mohamed Saleh Belfakhan	August	September 1	September 1	"	11,948 00	Rice.
8	Saleh Kinnary	September	"	"	"	31,248 00	Piece-goods.
9	Ahmed Amsalalin and Co.	"	"	"	"	7,605 00	Tea.
10	Sheik Abbosaitar	"	"	"	"	5,340 00	Barley, wheat, and cream.
11	Osman Ahmed Sejadi	"	"	"	"	1,568 00	Sesam.
12	Saleh Yousef	"	"	"	"	2,492 30	Sesam seeds.
13	Mohamed Hassan and Mohamed Ismail	"	"	"	"	18,485 30	Dura, piece-goods, &c.
14	Mohamed Paul Arab	October 22	October	October	Medina Road	6,000 00	Rice.
15	Alloo Baker Paul	"	"	"	Mecca Road	180 00	Lentils.
16	Sheik Abbosaitar	"	"	"	Medina Road	1,006 00	Wheat.
17	Mohamed S. Ishak Alhawkhi	"	"	"	Mecca Road	6,000 00	Rice.
18	Mohamed Hassan and Mohamed Ismail	October 20	November 7	November 7	"	2,500 00	Cotton goods.
19	Abdul S. A. Jabbar	"	"	"	"	7,600 00	Beaseware.
20	S. Ahmed Jabya	"	"	"	"	7,612 00	China and enamelled goods.
21	Mohamed S. Ishak Alhawkhi	December 26	December 26	December 26	"	16,087 20	Cloth and notes.
22	Dhood Ismail	"	"	"	"	43,697 20	Cloth and notes.
	Total					222,931 20	

Inclosure 3 in No. 1.

Report on the Yemen Vilayet, Administrative and Economic, from September 1, 1904, to January 31, 1905.

THE régime of Tewfik Bey, the new Vali of the Yemen, has opened with serious trouble throughout the vilayet, aggravated by the scourge of drought and famine.

As was anticipated, the general revolt began with the departure of Abdulla Pasha, the ex-Vali and Commander-in-chief, and has grown in intensity ever since.

Supplementing the information to hand given in previous reports on the internal affairs of this province, the latest accounts received describe the situation as being very grave.

After severing all communication between the capital and Hodeida, the rebel Arabs have attacked, with varying success, all the garrisoned places between Menakha and Sana'a.

The Turkish block-house 10 miles north-east of the former place was besieged by the insurgents, whereas the garrison at Mefaq, further east, surrendered for want of provisions.

The village of Suk-el-Khamis, including the telegraph office, fell into the hands of the rebels, who next invested and assaulted the two Turkish "karagols" (guard stations) at Buao, razing one to the ground.

Metneh or Senam Pasha, some 15 miles south-west of Sana'a, on the direct caravan route, where the Turks have a fort and a block-house with a garrison of about 100 men, including gendarmes, succumbed to the attacks of the Arabs. Two guns of small calibre, a number of rifles, a quantity of military stores and provisions, and some transport animals were captured. The officers of the garrison were allowed to proceed to Sana'a, but the soldiers retained as prisoners.

Sana'a itself was under fire and forced to repel the assaults of the rebels from the heights in the west and south.

The town of Bauda, the summer residence of the inhabitants of Sana'a, and some 5 miles north of it, went over to the Imam.

Amran and Taweela, to the north, that are under Turkish occupation and subject to frequent attacks from the Imam's quarter, I learn, were also taken, but the fate of the garrisons is unknown.

Colonel Riza Bey, the Commandant at Ta'iz, marched with 1,000 men with provisions and stores for Sana'a, but his advance was checked at Mau'bar, in spite of inflicting heavy losses on the Arabs.

Ibrahim Bey, the Mutesarrif of Hodeida, whom I reported as having left his head-quarters for Menakha to be joined by 2,000 Arabs from the plains with the object of forcing a passage to the capital with supplies and ammunition, was compelled to abandon his intention and disband his force and return to Hodeida on account of the opposition to his interference by the Turkish Commandant of the above place.

The scheme for raising a Hamidieh corps of 600 men at Hodeida attempted by Syyed Ahmed es-Shirai Pasha proved a failure and has fallen through.

Troops are steadily pouring into the Yemen since the outbreak of the present revolt. Over 5,000 soldiers have been landed at Hodeida since October last, and others moved from Assyr.

The Imperial authorities have decided, on the recommendation of the new Vali-Adjoint, to dispatch twenty battalions from Syria and other places to the Yemen under the command of a General of the Fifth Army Corps, to pacify this province and to punish the Imam.

The Ministry of War recently requested Syyed Ahmed Pasha to accept a contract to provision the additional troops, but the latter is disinclined to do so without the receipt of a substantial advance of 5,000*l.*, although the expenses of the above army are being guaranteed by the Crédit Lyonnais.

The local Customs have recently advanced a loan of 8,000*l.* to the military authorities for the maintenance of the troops in the Yemen Vilayet.

There was a rumour prevalent here yesterday that Hikmet Pasha and Colonel Ghalib Bey, with about 3,000 men and a considerable quantity of supplies for the besieged and starving garrison, had, after forced marches and serious opposition, succeeded in reaching Sana'a a couple of days ago.

Mahmoud Nedim Bey has been appointed Vali-Adjoint of this province, and arrived at Hodeida on the 3rd January. The appointment has given great satisfaction, as the above officer is very well known and greatly respected at Hodeida. He was the

President of the Commercial Tribunal there some fifteen years ago, and later at Jeddah in the same capacity. In 1894 Mahmoud Bey was nominated Kaimakam of Zebeed and afterwards promoted to the Mutessarifik of Tripoli in Africa.

Ibrahim Bey, the new Mutessarif, on the other hand, does not appear to be at all popular among the natives of his district, being quite unfit for such a responsible post. Besides being illiterate and not possessed of either administrative ability or tact, many arbitrary acts committed since taking up his appointment have tended to still lower him in the estimation of the local community.

Two battalions of Redifs have mutinied at Cunfuda, as already reported, and one at Camaran. The latter has 70 per cent. of its strength on the sick list, and several deaths occur here among the men almost daily.

Trade in general has been hampered, if not practically paralyzed, by a combination of circumstances prevailing in the country. Serious internal trouble, prolonged drought and famine, and the severe operation at Yemen ports of quarantine imposed against Aden have mainly contributed to the stagnation of trade.

Although cereals are allowed to be landed in quarantine from ships from Aden and Indian ports, there is not sufficient encouragement to ship-owners to make Hodeida a port of call on account of the low freights paid for the above article of import. Certain lines have discontinued calling at Hodeida since the outbreak of plague at Aden.

During December and January a good quantity of rain fell along the Yemen littoral, especially at Camaran; but information regarding the rainfall in the interior is not as yet available.

The Lazaret of Camaran was opened in October 1904, where 22,000 pilgrims from the East have been detained in quarantine *en route* to the Hedjaz. With the exception of a mild epidemic of small-pox, no infectious or contagious disease occurred.

The arrangements for the accommodation of the pilgrims during the present season have proved on the whole very satisfactory.

(Signed) G. A. RICHARDSON,
His Majesty's Vice-Consul, Hodeida and Camaran.

Camaran, January 31, 1905.

P.S.—It is officially confirmed that the relieving force under General Hikmet Pasha entered Sana'a on the 29th January.

G. A. R.

February 2, 1905.

Inclosure 4 in No. 1.

Vice-Consul Richardson to Consul Devey.

(No. 26.)

Hodeida, March 2, 1905.

Sir,

SINCE the entry of General Arif Hikmet Pasha's force into Sana'a at the close of January last, there appears to be greater activity on the part of the Arab rebels throughout this province.

The strength of the Sana'a garrison is estimated at between 5,000 and 6,000 men now, and the provisions conveyed by the relieving force cannot last for any length of time.

Rauda was occupied by the Turkish troops last month, but Sana'a and the above place are closely invested on all sides.

I learn from Arabs that have succeeded in reaching this town from the capital, after undergoing great hardships, that transport camels and mules are being slaughtered to feed the troops, and that the rates for other food-stuffs, which are all running short, are most exorbitant. The price of a bag of flour has now risen to 7*l.*, and a sack of dhurra is not obtainable for less than 60 dollars (Maria Theresa), which is equivalent to about 5*l.* 10*s.*

The general impression here is that should further reinforcements with provisions not reach Sana'a within twenty days the garrison will be obliged to surrender.

Messages and despatches from the beleaguered capital are conveyed secretly by Arabs as far as Menakha and transmitted to Hodeida by post or telegraph.

News was received here yesterday that the insurgents had captured Hajjo on the

For the transport of troops, the distance was divided into four stages:—

	Kilom.
Thus—	
Fusle	28
Guera	40
Abel Ba'ra	28
Akaba	20
Total	116

No villages exist along the route, and the supply of water is extremely limited, and has usually to be brought from points two to three hours either side of the route, so that small detachments with depôts of provisions were posted at the various stages, while the local Arabs supplied camel transport to bring water from springs in the adjoining hills to the halting places, where it was stored in barrels for the use of the troops.

At Fusle, the first stage, there is a small spring, but at the other points is practically no water. Near the ruins of Hornsylme a little water may be found, but along the Wadi Ithm in the later stages is deep sand, difficult for marching. On the second stage between Fusle and Guera is a steep rough descent from the level of the Maan plateau (3,300 feet), through the stony defile of the Rab-el-Ithm to a wide sandy valley which continues, bordered by rocky bare hills, to the head of the Akaba Gulf. The descent is quite impracticable for wheeled traffic.

The principal Bedun tribe along the route are the Howeitat, under Sheikh Arar, of whom the subsections Ibn Injad, El Imran, and Es Saidyin are found near the head of the Gulf of Akaba; while the subsections Es Zowaidi, El Amamre, and Er Rajif (a small tribe) are to be found along the route.

Of these, Sheikh Arar and the Ibn Injad supplied some 1,500 camels.

The troops made the railway journey in open trucks, and obtained sufficient biscuit and water along the way and from depôts at Maan, but on the march thence to Akaba, they suffered much from want of provisions and water, and many died on the way, while desertions were very frequent during the railway journey and on the march. For these reasons it was decided to discontinue sending troops by this route. Muzaffer Pasha, Aide-de-camp to the Sultan, was specially sent to Akaba to supervise embarkation, and to distribute the new Mauser rifles on the arrival of the men at Akaba.

A few days' instruction in the working of the new weapon was given before embarking.

Akaba is only a small place of twenty-five huts, occupied by Arabs, who support themselves by fishing, while near by is an old masonry fort which usually has a garrison of 200 infantry detached from the Hejaz Division (head-quarters, Mecca), and about twenty zaptiehs. Hitherto there has been no telegraph line to Akaba from Maan, which has a station on the Damascus-Medina line, but the construction has been sanctioned, and has now begun.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. MAUNSELL,
Military Attaché.

No. 3.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 1.)

(No. 280.)

Constantinople, April 25, 1905.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of a report by Colonel Maunsell on the progress of events in the Yemen.

Colonel Maunsell, who has just returned from Syria, is in a position to confirm the reports recently received respecting the extreme reluctance of the recruits to serve in the Yemen and of the frequency of desertion.

It is clear that Riza Pasha, Commander of the Ottoman troops, who is now shut up at Sanaa, is in a very precarious position, and that owing to lack of transport his speedy relief will be a matter of much difficulty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 3.

Lieutenant-Colonel Maunsell to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 13.)

Sir, *Constantinople, April 22, 1905.*

I HAVE the honour to report that the Syrian Brigade of Redifs of St. Jean d'Acre, which has been slowly mobilizing for the past month, under orders to proceed to the Yemen, has now been ordered to stand fast, and no more Syrian troops are to be sent there.

The brigade was mobilized only with the greatest difficulty, and it was not an unfrequent sight in the environs of Haifa to see detachments of men who had deserted being brought in, bound with cords and escorted by zaptiehs, while some paid large sums to provide substitutes. The want of money in the Syrian vilayets, and unwillingness of the men to serve in the Yemen, retarded mobilization.

Service in Macedonia would have been quite popular, and it was the constant lack of supplies, with starvation rations, which the men feared most in the Yemen. The Syrian Redifs already sent have shown a tendency to sympathize with the enemy, and many have actually deserted and joined the rebels, so that now the decision has been taken to employ either Osmanli or men other than Syrian to quell the rebellion. The Syrian Redifs also found great difficulty in understanding the Mauser rifles that were thrust into their hands just before embarking at Akaba or on leaving Hodeida for the front, and they had no previous knowledge of the weapon.

As might be expected, Palace interference is evident everywhere; and, as an example, one day the Commandant of the Haifa Redifs was detained for several hours at the telegraph office, in direct communication with the Palace, discussing the difficulties of mobilization.

The War Office and the General Staff (mobilization section), whose duty it is to direct such operations, are practically ignored.

To replace the Syrian Redifs it has been decided to send the following:—

(*a*.) The 11th Nizam Brigade (21st and 22nd regiments) from Yanina and other posts guarding the western portion of the Greek frontier, and belonging to the 3rd (Macedonian) Corps, with one field and two mountain batteries from Scutari in Albania.

(*b*.) The Rize Redif Brigade (27th) from the Black Sea coast, recruited from the neighbouring mountains of Lazistan.

(*c*.) All this year's recruits of the Konia Division, which forms part of the 2nd (Adrianople) Corps.

If these battalions can be made up to 700 strong each, which is very doubtful, as the men of the Laz Brigade especially are trying every means to evade service, this should mean a reinforcement of some 10,000 men.

To replace those withdrawn from Yanina and the Greek frontier, it has been decided to call out the 17th Redif Brigade, which belongs to the same districts, *i.e.*, Southern Albania and Monastir; but, probably remembering their long and arduous service under arms, and their treatment when disbanded a year ago, they show great unwillingness to join the colours. In the Yemen, the Mushir Riza Pasha has ultimately forced his way into Sanaa, with considerable loss in men and guns; but now the rebels have closed in behind him and the place is again closely invested, all communication having been cut off now for some days.

Owing to urgent orders from the Palace, the Mushir was obliged to hurry inland to make an effort to relieve Sanaa, then also in a critical position, but he was obliged to leave with insufficient forces to cope with such a strong body of rebels, estimated now at 40,000 men.

Owing to Palace interference in the arrangements, and mainly owing to the want of transports, the reinforcements arrive in driblets, and are liable to be overwhelmed in detail by the rebels; besides which the supply of provisions and transport is most defective; so that, although the Mushir Riza Pasha, and especially his Chief of the Staff, Izzet Pasha, are both most capable officers, who have studied in Germany, they have been able to make little headway against Palace muddling, and have had to sacrifice themselves.

Sea transport being so deficient, the troops from the Black Sea and Adriatic coasts will take six weeks or perhaps two months before they can arrive complete, with the necessary baggage animals to move up country from Hodeida.

24th February, and the report is even confirmed by the local authorities. A garrison of about 1,200, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Tewfik Bey, that was maintained at the above place, was forced to surrender through starvation, and were made prisoners and immediately removed to the Imam's territory. General Yussuf Pasha, from Hujjur, is marching with a strong force to retake Hajje from the rebels.

On the eastern frontiers of Turkish Yemen, the towns of Yerim, Damar, Rida', and Wa'lan have fallen during the past fifteen or twenty days, and their respective small garrisons, ranging from 60 to 100 men, made prisoners.

Man'bar, about 40 miles south-west of Sana'a, that had been reached by Colonel Riza Bey with 1,000 men from Ta'iz some six weeks ago, has been under siege ever since.

About 3,500 troops and a considerable quantity of rifles, ammunition, and other military stores have been landed since the beginning of February, and dispatched with all haste to Menakha to await further reinforcements.

General Riza Pasha, from Tripoli in Africa, recently selected to command the Ottoman forces in Yemen, is expected to arrive daily with 2,000 men.

A forward movement will be made when 8,000 troops are available, as it will be necessary to regarrison the various positions on the lines of communication between Sana'a and Menakha when retaken from the rebels.

The question of transport is a serious one to be grappled with locally, in view of the scarcity of camels and mules procurable at present in this part of Yemen.

The provisioning of the division now being landed for service has been intrusted under contract to Syyed Ahmed es-Shirai Pasha.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. A. RICHARDSON.

Inclosure 5 in No. 1.

Vice-Consul Richardson to Consul Devey.

(No. 30.)

Sir, *Hodeida, March 21, 1905.*

SINCE the last report submitted on this province, I have the honour to inform you that the revolutionary movement has progressed up to a few days ago, but there is every hope that, with the large reinforcements that are now steadily pouring into Hodeida, the same will be speedily checked.

During the current month 5,263 Turkish troops have been landed at this port, which would bring the strength of the reinforcements from the beginning of this year up to a total of nearly 15,000. Only about 2,000 of the latter are recruits, the remainder being either Redifs or regulars from Syria, many of whom have seen previous service in this vilayet.

There has also been an adequate and proportionate increase in the number of Generals attached to this corps. Three Colonels, viz., Riza Bey, of the Ta'iz district, and Colonels Ghalib and Syeed Bey, of the Sana'a division, have been promoted to Brigadier-Generals (Liwa); and Generals Izzat and Ali Pasha (promoted from Colonels), both staff officers from Syria, have arrived in the Yemen with the division now being landed. There are, in short, three Major-Generals (Feriks), eight Brigadier-Generals (Liwas), in Yemen under the command of Riza Pasha, who was specially accorded the rank of Marshal a few days ago.

The insurgents carried away big spoils after the surrender of Hajje, already reported. The strength of the garrison there was considerably over 1,800 men, who were subjected to a close investment for over three months. The troops refused to hold out any longer, and laid down their arms, as there were no provisions left in the town. The Commander, Major Tewfik Bey, thereupon committed suicide by shooting himself. Four other officers were made prisoners and removed to the Imam's region. The capture of guns included six 4-centim., five 6- or 7-centim., and one 12-centim. cannon. The Arabs also took 3,000 cases of ammunition and 2,500 rifles, excluding those taken from the surrendered troops.

For the past ten days, soldiers that formed the Hajje garrison are daily arriving here in small bodies, naked and foot-sore and in a miserable plight. Up to date over 500 men have come in.

After the fall of Hajje, the insurgents attacked and captured the town of Hussob, where Lieutenant-Colonel Sadi Bey was stationed with 150 men. It is rumoured that

the Colonel was killed, but other accounts state that this noted and brave Turkish officer [illegible] Two Gatling [illegible] ,500 rifles, and a large quantity of provisions were captured by the rebels at [illegible]

[illegible] has been [illegible] many months, and holds a strong and well fortified position.

About [illegible] Shakir Pasha [illegible] proceeded to Kushin, in the Zaidya district, about three days' march northward from [illegible], where there is a large Turkish commissariat depôt, and, with the assistance of [illegible] friendly Sheiks, succeeded in dispatching provisions to Kuf[illegible]

[illegible]

I have, &c.

[illegible]

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 1.)

[illegible] Constantinople, April 25

My [illegible],

WITH reference to my despatch No. 231 of the 31st ultimo, I have the h[illegible] forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch from Lieutenant-Co[illegible] Maunsell, Military Attaché at this Embassy, containing notes of the route betw[illegible] Maan and Akaba.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 2.

Lieutenant-Colonel Maunsell to Sir N. O'Conor.

(C[illegible]

[illegible] Constantinople, April 22, 1905.

[illegible] to forward the following notes on the route from Maan to [illegible], along which the Syrian Redif troops marched last month to embark for the [illegible] at Akaba.

But they will probably be pushed forward in small detachments, as has usually been done up to the present.

Orders were given some three weeks ago to collect 2,000 transport animals in Syria, but the Vali of Damascus said it could only be done with the greatest difficulty owing to want of money.

Shakir Pasha, Vali of Kossovo, now on his way to Yemen to endeavour to introduce reforms, is a very capable soldier, educated in Germany, and who has twice had successful experience in quelling disturbances in Albania during the last two years. It is probable he will now be appointed in command of a further expedition to relieve Sanaa and the Mushir Riza Pasha shut up therein.

As long as the stronghold of Menakha remains in Turkish hands there may be some hope of success, as it is an important point half-way between the capital and the coast; but reinforcements are still far off, and as the rebels have now captured quite a considerable force of artillery they may be able to batter down the high masonry walls and towers which are the sole protection of Sanaa. The opinion commonly expressed in military circles is, that were it not for the threatening situation in Macedonia, a crushing force could easily be sent to reconquer the Yemen. It is clear, however, that Macedonia cannot be neglected, although the most strenuous efforts must be made to uphold Turkish rule in Yemen, owing to the important religious and political consequences which would ensue were it lost to them and the trouble spread farther north to the Moslem holy places. Attached is a photograph showing a Syrian Redif battalion on the march near the Jordan, which gives an idea of their lack of equipment and their discipline.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. R. MAUNSELL, *Lieutenant-Colonel,*
Military Attaché.

No. 4.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 1.)

No. 283.)

My Lord, Constantinople, April 26, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 280 of the 24th instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I have received a report intimating that the position of the Turks in the Yemen is most critical, and that Menakha, where there is a large depôt of cannon and military stores, is in danger of falling into the hands of the rebels. The Minister of War has now received instructions to see that the whole force designated should at once be dispatched to the spot, and it has been pointed out to him that none of the troops from the European provinces have yet been sent off, and [illegible] of those called out at Trebizond, only a very few have yet reached Hodeida.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 5.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 141.)

Sir, Foreign Office, May 1, 1905.

I HAVE had under my consideration, in communication with the Secretary of State for India, your Excellency's despatch No. 223 of the 4th ultimo, reporting that Mr. Fitzmaurice had raised two new points in connection with the Aden boundary delimitation, upon which, however, it appeared to you unnecessary to insist, and that you had telegraphed to Mr. Fitzmaurice accordingly.

Your action in the matter is approved by His Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.

(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

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* Not reproduced.

I furnished his Excellency with a Memorandum on com[illegible] tions which I had [illegible] and took to communicate [illegible] the Turkish [illegible]

Before leaving my room his Excellency handed to me a [illegible] stated that a report had lately been received by the [illegible] K[illegible]

[illegible] the construction of fortifications around Koweit. Such proceedings were, his Excellency said, of a nature to constitute a violation of the *status quo*, of which the maintenance at Koweit had been agreed upon by the two Governments, and he wa[illegible]

[illegible] construction of fortifications in the neighbourhood of Koweit [illegible] thought we had good reasons for complaining of the manner in which such allegations were con[illegible]

the two Governments that His Majesty's Government considered they had a right to demand that the officers who were responsible for them should be censured, and, if the practice was continued, removed from their posts.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE

No. 10.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received May 4.

[illegible] Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under Secretary [illegible] herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State copy of a [illegible] In a letter from the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, dated the 6[illegible] relative to the recent disturbances at Bahrein.

India Office, May 3, 1905.

Inclosure 1 in No. 10.

Major Cox to Government of India.

Bahrein, March 4, 190[illegible]

IN continuation of the correspondence ending with Foreign Department telegram [illegible] dated the 18th February, to my address, I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Government of India, a report regarding the measures since taken at Bahrein.

2. I arrived at Bahrein on the evening of the 23rd Febr[illegible] "Redbreast," which had been placed at my disposal by the [illegible] Officer in lieu of the "Lawrence," recently deputed to assist the operations of the Gazetteer party on the southern coast of Oman. At Bahrein there were already His Majesty's ship "Sphinx," which had been on duty there for some days as guard-ship, and His Majesty's ship "Fox," under the command [illegible]

In order to save daylight I did not wait for the Sheikh's usual visit [illegible] but landed at once and asked him to pay his visit at the Agency the [illegible] morning.

Captain Prideaux, Assistant Political Agent, had kept him informed as far as [illegible] of my movements, and had advised him for the more expeditious transaction of business, to take up his residence at Manama during my stay, but this he had not arranged to do, and when I arrived he was himself residing at Muharrug

[illegible] while his son, Sheikh Hamed, with his zenana, was absent at his country house [illegible] miles outside the town. Sheikh Isa, [illegible] to receive it.

He expressed his willingness to do so, and as he had already been informed by Captain Prideaux, at the time of the settlement of the German case, that had the orders of Government been received in time, Sheikh Ali would not have been allowed to return, I thought it as well to warn him before leaving that the departure of his nephew from Bahrein was an item [illegible] ment in regard to the recent [illegible] preparations for early departure. I also told him that his son Hamed's proper place was beside his father, and that I hoped that he would be forthwith summoned from his suburban residence.

[illegible] arrived up to time next morning, accompanied by his son Abdulla and the grandson before mentioned, and was received with suitable honours at the Agency. His eldest son Hamed was still absent, but was expected.

A[illegible] were the Senior Naval Officer, Captain Prideaux, Assistant Political A[illegible] commander Bowman of His Majesty's ship "Sphinx," and Lieutenant Gal[illegible] now at Bahrein on Gazetteer duty.

The ultimatum of Government was duly presented to the Chief in the detailed f[illegible] of which a translation forms Inclosure No. 1 of this Report. The only special remark which the terms of it seem to call for is in reference to demand No. 1, to which I added the names of the four persons who had before been flogged and exp[illegible] connection with the German case, but who had since been allowed by Sheikh [illegible] reappear in Manama.

[illegible] for [illegible] and an[illegible] with [illegible] gain time. In view, however, [illegible] to ponder over my previous [illegible] meeting was adjourned until the following morning.

I would draw attention here to the fact that throughout my previous visit and up to now, the contingency of his being impotent to produce either Sheikh Ali or the other men wanted [illegible] suggested or allowed by the Sunks. On the contrary, he had always sought to preserve the polite fiction that they were entirely under his control.

4. Shortly after noon Sheikh Abdulla returned to the Agency and informed Captain Prideaux that [illegible] arranged.

At 3.30 P.M. Sheikh Isa himself came over again from Muharrug, accompanied by a [illegible] full of armed followers. He [illegible]

that Captain Prideaux and Lieutenant Gabriel should accompany the Sheikh's men, with a dozen sepoys from the infantry detachment, but that they should remain in the background, and only give assistance in case it was actually required. At the same time the Senior Naval Officer was asked by signal to co-operate from the harbour, and he did so by sending two armed boats to lie off the shore opposite Sheikh Ali's house.

The Chief's son, Abdulla, was in charge of the former's men, and it was left to him to enter the house and endeavour to induce Sheikh Ali to give himself up. In the interval Sheikh Esa himself remained in my company at the Agency, and we were now joined by his brother Sheikh Khalid, of Ruffa, and his son Sheikh Hamed.

It soon transpired, however, that Ali had escaped earlier in the day, immediately on receiving Sheikh Abdulla's message (or warning?), and accordingly Sheikh Khalid left shortly afterwards, ostensibly furnished with peremptory instructions from the Chief to scour the island during the night in search of his fugitive nephew.

It would probably have been possible to have prevented Sheikh Ali's escape by [illegible] have been a more or less hostile act which it did not seem that we were justified in taking before the expiry of the twenty-four hours allowed for compliance [illegible] terms of the ultimatum.

[illegible] on that day Sheikh Esa arrived at the Agency half an-hour before the time, accompanied by his sons Hamed and Abdulla.

He intimated that he had brought with him the 2,000 rupees demanded as compensation for the Persians, and also the draft notification in connection with the [illegible] provisionally approved by me and issued in the form shown in Inclosure No. 2.) He added that the fifty men whom he had been called upon to furnish as a bazaar guard would be produced for inspection at any time that might be appointed. With regard, however, to items 1 and 4 of the ultimatum, he stated that he had so far been unable to lay hands on any of the ten men required, and he had obtained no furth[illegible] of Sheikh Ali, as his brother Khalid had not yet returned. He nevertheless [illegible] his desire to comply with the orders of Government, and agreed to [illegible] such attachable property as his nephew might have left beh[illegible]

A little later Sheikh Khalid returned, but his appearance evidenced no trace of the exhausting effect which his all-night exertions might have been expected to produce on a man of his age. He reported that he had ascertained that Sheikh Ali, with eight or ten followers, had escaped to the mainland in the boat of some fishermen which they had commandeered at a village on the eastern extremity of the island, opposite Katr.

The Senior Naval Officer, Captain Prideaux, and myself, in consultation, now came to the conclusion [illegible] Sheikh Ali's escape, his compliance with three of the demands and his agreement to hand over the fugitive's property made it hardly justifiable for us to proceed to extremities, but it was decided to call upon him forthwith to send his son Hamed on board one of the men-of-war, both as a hostage and as a proof of his own faith.

After considerable demur on his own part and that of his son, he finally accepted the situation, and Sheikh Hamed was at once sent off in a man-of-war's boat to His Majesty's ship "Sphinx" on the understanding that, if found necessary, he should be detained there pending receipt of further telegraphic instructions from Government. The Sheikh was also assured on our own part that it was not part of our intention to deport Hamed to Muscat or elsewhere in lieu of Sheikh Ali.

[illegible] of Government Sheikh Ali's house and realisable property, after allowing sufficient time for his zenana to be removed and suitably housed elsewhere with their immediate personal and household necessaries. They were taken charge of by Sheikh Khalid. A detachment of Marines was landed by the Senior Naval Officer to surround the house and keep order during its attachment, and the same course was followed the next day while Sheikh Ali's effects were being removed. As soon as the house was completely cleared out it was placed in charge of a sepoy guard from the Agency, which will now be conveniently housed there pending the erection of permanent quarters for them. I may mention that while co-operating with us in the attachment of the house Sheikh Esa asked me to take cognizance of the fact that it was not, according to him, Sheikh Ali's absolute property, but was in fact the "Government House" of Manama, and

[illegible] however, in a separate communication, and merely mention it incidentally here.

Two native crafts, pointed out by Sheikh Esa as belonging to his nephew, were burnt where they lay, and the remainder of his property, consisting of personal effects and live-stock, were collected at the Agency for distribution and sale in due course. I shall address Government subsequently with regard to the disposal of the proceeds of the effects confiscated, which it was obviously not desirable to keep in Bahrein.

[illegible] ten culprits had escaped from Bahrein territory to the mainland, and that he was altogether unable to produce them. At the same time he undertook to publish notifications proclaiming their banishment, and offering a reward of 10,000 rupees for Sheikh Ali's arrest and 200 rupees for that of each of the ten hooligans. Translations of these notices form Inclosures 3 and 4.

So far, then, as the actual terms of the ultimatum were concerned, all the measures that were rendered practicable by the circumstances had now been taken; there remained to be considered, however, the case of the Mullah brothers, Jasim and Ahmed-bin-Mahza, whose sinister influence in Manama had been brought into marked relief during the recent incidents.

During the present proceedings they had been wise enough to abstain, outwardly at all events, from any special intrigue which would in itself have warranted the taking of drastic measures against them, but I was quite at one with Captain Prideaux in thinking that it would be a mistake to allow the present measures to close without administering to them a warning calculated to prompt them to conduct themselves in future with more circumspection, and to refrain from interfering in matters of government outside their priestly functions.

I therefore suggested to the Sheikh, whose attitude had now become much more satisfactory and submissive, that he should send them both over to the Agency to visit me, giving them at the same time on my behalf an absolute assurance of safe conduct and courteous treatment while here. This course he readily assented to. In the result the elder brother, Sheikh Jasim, came over at once, accompanied by the Chief's brother Khalid. They both made excuses for Sheikh Ahmed, who, they naively assured me, had been out of his house when the message was sent them, but had been summoned from his garden and would present himself later in the evening. It subsequently transpired that immediately on getting the Sheikh's message he had [illegible] from his house. Stronger proof than this of his disaffection, or better justification of previous opinions expressed with regard to him, could hardly be wished for. Sheikh Jasim, who on his first coming had been spoken to very plainly, paid the Agency two or three hurried visits within the ensuing twenty-four hours, in the course of which he managed to divest himself of most of the unctuous pomposity which he had at first assumed, and now professed to admit freely the error of his brother's ways and his [illegible] him. He, however, expressed the confident hope of being able to bring Sheikh Ahmed in, and begged as a personal favour, for which he would always remain mindful, to be given a little law for this purpose before any notice of banishment were issued against him. He was accordingly granted twenty-four hours, and informed at the same time that after that no further law would be given unless he himself went on board one of the men-of-war as a hostage pending his brother's submission. It was never expected that he would commit himself to such a course, but the twenty-four hours having elapsed he at once took [illegible] expressed his desire to proceed on board His Majesty's ship "Sphinx" in the hope that the communication to his brother of the fact that he, Sheikh Jasim, had surrendered himself as a hostage to us, would induce him to return. The embarkation on board one of His Majesty's ships of so venerable a Minister, and one who had hitherto considered himself too important a personage even to call upon the British Representative, was [illegible] the native mind that no [illegible] boat to join Sheikh Hamed on the "Sphinx," where the accommodation was the most suitable, and where he appears to have made himself thoroughly at home.

The precise agreement upon which he went was that his stay should not be permitted to extend over seventy-two hours, and that if his brother, who had probably crossed to the mainland, [illegible] brought in within that time, the latter would be posted as under ban of expulsion and would not be allowed to return to Bahrein.

8. The following morning, 2nd March, there being no further need of the presence

of three men-of-war, the Senior Naval Office with His Majesty's ship "Fox" left for Bombay, whither she had been ordered to proceed immediately on the conclusion of her work here. Before Captain Eustace's departure, however, he, Captain Prideaux, and I, paid an official visit to Sheikh Esa, in order to show him and the public that coercive measures were now at an end as far as the action of His Majesty's ship was concerned. I forgot to mention above that on the 26th instant we had insisted on the Sheikh coming over to live in Manama for the remainder of my stay, his residence away at Muharrug rendering speedy communication with him so difficult. After a good deal of demur on the score of inconvenience he arranged to do so from the 27th February.

I take this opportunity of g [illegible] effective assistance and [illegible] Captain Eustace, t [illegible] he was at all times in close touch and consultation with myself and Captain Prideaux. I [illegible] mander S [illegible] here on survey and guard duty, had obtained a g [illegible] prepared sketches of important sections of [illegible] valuable had it become necessary to open hostil [illegible]

9. In view of the fact that possession of Sheikh Ali's person was not effected, the measures taken can hardly be regarded as completely satisfactory, but, on the other hand, it may perhaps be considered that the fact that Sheikh Ali has by his flight [illegible] placed himself under a sentence of complete banishment, is from some [illegible] more conducive of denouement than an alternative which would have [illegible] Lapa maintaining him for son [illegible] to me to have [illegible] heritage, whole loss of life and local upheaval have [illegible] that on the whole the Government of India will [illegible] even if the terms of the ultimatum have not been comp [illegible]

10. Since the above paragraphs were written, the truant Mullah, Sheikh Ahmed, has repented of his precipitate flight and surrendered himself. The delay in his return has been due to the fact that he had already reached the mainland of Katr when his brother's last message reached him. Sheikh Jasim has accordingly been allowed to disembark from the "Sphinx," and after interviewing both brothers together in the presence of Captain Prideaux and reading them a very frank homily on the unsatisfactory character of their demeanour in the past, and the intention of the Residency and of Government not to tolerate any repetition of it in future, I [illegible] allowed them to go their way, after a friendly expression of the hope, and the w[illegible], that they should in future limit their exertions to their recognized sphere, m[illegible]ntain the friendly relations with this Agency which they admit that our forbearance has now inaugurated.

11. Before leaving Bahrein I have given further consideration to the question of Sheikh Hamed's detention. The conditions of it were explained in paragraph 5 above. Since then, granting the initial fact, or presumption, that Sheikh Ali was allowed by him to escape, Sheikh Esa has so far shown his desire to act in accord with the wishes of Government by handing over his nephew's house and property, and by issuing the Proclamations set forth in the inclosures to this Report. There are several questions connected with the immediate future of the administration of Government in Bahrein which it will be necessary to place before the Government of India, and this I shall proceed to do with as little delay as possible; meanwhile, Sheikh Hamed's temporary detention on board His Majesty's ship "Sphinx" and the other incidents of the last few days will, I hope, have imbued him with some sense of his own impotence, and the futility of imagining that he and his father can c [illegible] with impunity to flout the wishes of the British Government, to whom indeed they owe everything. I propose, therefore, after consulting Captain Prideaux, to allow him to return to the shore before I leave Bahrein to-day.

Sheikh Esa has just visited me in order to have a final conversation before my departure, and was evidently much relieved and grateful regarding the permission to Sheikh Hamed to come ashore. I find his attitude altogether changed, and it is now rather that of a naughty child coming repentant before his parents than that of a Ruler of some 70,000 souls, who two months ago spoke as arrogantly as if he were r[illegible] H [illegible] submissive to Government, and that he and his children recognized that when it came to difficulties they had no one else to look to. I replied that I hoped he would give

proof of his assurances in the future, and would look upon his Politi[illegible] as his best friend and adviser.

Before taking leave he presented me with the title-deeds of a plot of ground adjoining the A[illegible] compound which I had told him we [illegible] for the I[illegible] acquire from the owners for us, but had intimated, at the same time, that we were prepared to pay any reasonable price for it. In handing over the title-deed he said that he would prefer to make a free gift of it to Gov[illegible] approval of Government, I accepted with thanks. It is present[illegible] [illegible]

Inclosure 2 in No. 10.

Memorandum of Demands made by the Officiating Political Resident in the Persian Gulf upon Sheikh Isa-bin-Ali, Chief of Bahrein, by order of the Government of India.

[See Part II, Inclosure 8 in No. 96.]

Inclosure 3 in No. 10.

Notification.

(Translation.)

TO all whom it may concern, be it known that "sukhra," or forced labour, is not applicable in any way whatever to th[illegible] of [illegible] who are [illegible] who apply the customs to any such persons as those specified will be held responsible and will be severely punished.

(Signed and sealed) ESA-BIN-ALI-BIN-KHALIFAH,
Chief of Bahrein.

Bahrein, 22nd Zilhijjeh, 1322, A.H.

Inclosure 4 in No. 10.

Notification.

(Translation.)

To all whom it may concern

WHEREAS Sheikh Ali-bin-Ahmed-bin-Khalifah has rebelled against the orders of my [illegible] commands of the great British Government [illegible] Resident in the Persian Gulf and [illegible] said [illegible] bin-A[illegible] shall be treated as [illegible]

I further give notice that to any person who shall arrest the said Sheikh Ali-bin-Ahmed and shall deliver h[illegible] British Government in the Persian Gulf, or to the Captain of a British man-of-war, I, Esa-bin-Ali-al-Khalifah, Chief of Bahrein, will pay him the sum of 10,000 rupees only.

Dated at Bahrein, this 24th day of Zilhijjeh, 1322.

(Signed and sealed) ESA-BIN-ALI-BIN-KHALIFAH,
Chief of Bahrein.

Inclosure 5 in No. 10.

Notification.

(Translation.)

To all whom it may concern:

BE it known that the ten persons whose names are mentioned below who have defied our orders and absconded from Bahrein, are hereby placed under ban of expulsion from my territory of Bahrein altogether, and any person delivering any of the

said persons to me or to the British Representative in Bahrein, he will be entitled to a reward of 200 rupees only

The names of the persons are as follows:—

1. Hassan Bahoon	6. [illegible]
2. Mahomed Tahir	7. [illegible]
3. Zeeod-bin-Saad	8. [illegible]
4. [illegible]	9. [illegible]
5. [illegible]	10. [illegible]

Dated at [illegible] the [illegible] day of Zil[illegible] 1332

[illegible] ESA BIN ALI BIN KHALIFAH

Chief of Bahrein

Inclosure 6 in No. 10

Government of India to Major Cox

(Telegraphic.) P. *Calcutta* [illegible]

PLEASE refer to your letter dated the 4th March, 1905, regarding affairs at Bahrein.

The Government of India approve of the measures taken by you to carry out the terms of the ultimatum, and regard the result of them as being satisfactory on the whole.

No.

Memorandum communicated by M. Cambon, May 5, 1905

ARBITRAGE de Muscat.

Le Tribunal Arbitral ne se trouve pas encore [illegible] le retard apporté à la désignation du Surarbitre, et [illegible] à celui-ci un certain délai pour qu'il puisse prendre [illegible] présentés par les parties en [illegible] les dispositions de l'Acte du 13 Octobre, 1904 [illegible] que les conclusions des deux Gouvernements [illegible] le 1er Juin prochain.

[illegible] qu'il y aurait avantage à laisser aux Arbitres la [illegible] de la remise des conclusions, étant entendu que, [illegible] vrait son cours telle qu'elle a été réglée entre les [illegible] Gouvernements. Un échange de notes analogue à celui qui a eu lieu le 13 Janvier dernier pourrait constater l'accord des deux Gouvernements sur ce point, qui serait [illegible] aux Arbitres par les soins du Bureau International de la Cour Permanente d'Arbitrage.

L'Ambassadeur de France serait très reconnaissant à Lord Lansdowne si celui-ci voulait bien en faire connaître le plus tôt possible l'accueil fait à cette suggestion par [illegible]

Ambassade de France à Londres
5 Mai 1905

No. 12

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir H. Howard

(No. 30.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, May 5, 1905

I [illegible] with copies of correspondence as marked in the margin* relative to the Muscat arbitration.

You will observe that, in reply to [illegible] Tribunal at The Hague, His Majesty's Government and the Government [illegible]

* See Part II. Nos. 41, 63, and 145.

No. 10

Foreign Office to India Office.

Foreign Office, May 4, 1905.

[illegible] Lansdowne to transmit, for the information [illegible] copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Minister at [illegible] with the Persian Government in regard to [illegible] on Arab in Persia.

[illegible] the status of Koweit is, as Lord Lansdowne [illegible] with the Persian Government seem likely [illegible]

[illegible] further steps in the matter [illegible] &c.

(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON

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* See Part II. No. 46.

[illegible] French colleague with a view to making

[illegible] LANSDOWNE

No. 13

[illegible] *May 6*

[illegible] 14, 1905

[illegible] honour to [illegible] from h[illegible] [illegible]ad arrived he[illegible]

[illegible]ght a letter from the Mushir Feyzi Pasha, wh[illegible] appears [illegible] left. Ibn Reshid's letter was to the effect that he had [illegible] east border of Kass[illegible], and that four battalions [illegible] sent from Medina.

[illegible] information here, it would appear that the troops from Medina [illegible]

[illegible] Agent at [illegible] Pasha, the Amir's confidential [illegible]ted that he had punished the desert [illegible] interrupted communications, and they had been brought under control [illegible] expressed the hope that matters would shortly be settled, an[illegible] [illegible] and stated further that Sultan-ash Shaibeyh and other bad [illegible] arrived at Koweit from Kassim, in order to contrive mischief [illegible]rs to be based on the letter from the Amir, referred to above [illegible], the same Hassan-el-Haji telegraphed to his Agent at Nejef, [illegible]g him to warn the Shammars and the caravans, as reading (presumably Koweit Arabs) was going on in that direction.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. E. CROW

No. 14

[illegible] *N. O'Conor.—(Received at the Foreign Office, May 6.)*

(No. 18. Confidential.)

Sir,

Bussorah, April 14, 190[illegible]

[illegible] 6th April the authorities here were in constant [illegible] with the Sandjaks of Amara and Mont fik, with reference to [illegible] these districts.

Mutessarif of Amara reported that Gadban, of the Beni Lam, was fighting [illegible] of the El Bu Mohammed, and Gadban himself telegraphed to the Vali, [illegible] Seyhood's aggression. A Commission from Bussorah, at Amara, [illegible] [illegible]g to pacify the Arabs. The Bimbashi of Gendarmerie at Amara [illegible] intertribal fighting at Mejer Saghir, the El Bu Mohammed lost [illegible] Khalifa. Seyhood had been defeated, and fled to Hashra, and the El Azerij [illegible] Hashra in f[illegible]

On the 19th instant the Mutessarif of Amara confirmed the defeat of [illegible] [illegible] the loss on both sides was great. The El Azerij were then burning Mejer Kebir, and the local Government offices were in danger. He pressed for [illegible]rom Bagdad, and said the mischief was spreading.

Mutessarif of Montifik on the 30th ultimo anticipated that matters would [illegible] few days, and urged that a report to the Seraskerat would be [illegible]

[illegible] the Vali should move the Sultan to send troops from [illegible]h, and Samawa, and stated that he continued to egg on the tribes

[illegible] Sadun, to march against him and check his activity, having no other [illegible] of counteracting the evil influence of this treacherous individual.

On the 11th instant the Mutessarif sent the following telegram to the Vali:—

"Your idea of sending two battalions to Nasriye and the Erbil Redif battalion to Amara is excellent. I was taken in by Sadun, and am losing no time in breaking up his arrangements and showing him that I am not deceived. When these two battalions arrive I fully expect to smash him and make him obey Government orders. [illegible] Pasha, who has arrived at Nasriye from Bussorah, is the most faithful of [illegible] kasmen. If required, I shall keep him at Nasriye, and employ him in the Government interest."

On the 11th instant Sadun Pasha himself sent the following high-spirited message by telegraph to the Vali:

"We have several times appealed to your Excellency with reference to our oppression by the Bedour, and asked you to expel them from our lands and stop the troops from [illegible] of justice to do what we previously asked. If you do not listen to us, we shall be obliged to expel them ourselves. Greetings. Sadun, the protected of God."

I learn that one battalion has been dispatched from Samawa and one from Nejef [illegible] Amara.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. R. CROW.

No. 15.

Sir E. Egerton to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 6.)

(No. 71.)

My Lord,

Rome, April 30, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 34 of the 8th ultimo, in which I reported that I had, in accordance with instructions, submitted the request that the King of Italy should name an Umpire in the Muscat dhow arbitration, I have the honour to state that M. Fusinato, the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, informed me yesterday, unofficially, that His Majesty had selected M. Lammasch, an Austrian Senator and Professor at Vienna, who has acquaintance with the English language, to fill the post of Umpire.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 16.

Foreign Office to India Office.

Sir,

Foreign Office, May 6, 1905.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to inclose, for the information of the Secretary of State for India, copy of a telegram from the Turkish Officer commanding the Sixth Army Corps at Bagdad,* relating to recent events at Bahrein, which was left by the Turkish Ambassador at this Office on the 19th ultimo.

The telegram is a repetition in greater detail of the complaint which Musurus [illegible] instructed to make on the 22nd February, and which is recorded in Lord [illegible]wne's despatch to Mr. Townley No. 59 of that date, forwarded to you on the 1st March.

In both cases it is alleged that punitive measures were taken in consequence of an assault on a European, whereas, according to the reports received from the Government of India, reparation for the maltreatment of the German subject, M. Bahnsen, was obtained by Major Cox in December last without the assistance of His Majesty's ships, and it was in connection with an attack upon Persian subjects that the naval demonstration of February last became necessary.

* See Part II. No. 135.

[illegible] ument contains other and more serious misstatements; the allegations that the Bahrein Customs were occupied by British officers and fishing dues levied are clearly entirely without foundation, and the account given of the proceedings against Sheikh Ali, when compared with the reports furnished by the [illegible] to be incorrect in nearly every particular.

[illegible] been instructed to press for an answer, and Lord [illegible] reply that the report received by the Turkish Govern[illegible] the Commander of the Sixth Army Corps at Bagdad is, in many material respects, incorrect and exaggerated, but that His Majesty's Government cannot discuss the details of the measures taken; that they can only repeat the statement made to his Excellency on the 22nd February last, and in Sir P. Currie's note to the Porte [illegible] ust, 1903, that the island of Bahrein is under the protection of His [illegible] ernment, and that they are entirely within their rights in taking any [illegible] may think fit to obtain redress for outrages there, or to protect the [illegible] aggression; and, finally, that they must decline to lose sight of any [illegible] on the Porte on the subject.

[illegible] Lansdowne is not aware that there is any foundation for the statement in the last paragraph of Musurus Pasha's communication that the Sheikh now declares himself to be a Turkish subject, and he would be glad to learn whether any contrary [illegible]

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 17.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 8.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, April 1, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 200, Confidential, dated the 28th March last, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Acting Consul at Bussorah, relative to a conversation which he had with the Vali respecting Koweit and Bahrein.

[illegible]

Acting Consul Monahan to Sir N. [illegible]

(No. 11.)

Sir,

Bussorah, March 31, 1905.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 22 of the 24th instant, I have the honour to report that I had a conversation with the Vali on the 23rd instant. I asked him whether there was any news about Nejd affairs. He said he had no important news, and asked me whether I had heard anything. I said I had heard that Ibn Ra[illegible] [illegible]ding tribes near Kasim [illegible] I said I understood they were. The Vali would not pursue the subject. He said Abd ur-Rahman, father of Ibn Saoud, had left Koweit. I said I supposed the Sheikh of Koweit was keeping clear of Nejd affairs. He said: "He is pretending to keep clear, but is secretly taking part." I said: "I suppose Koweit is to remain in the same position. I believe that this has been clearly understood at Constantinople." He said: "Of course if there has been such a decision (Karar) the *status quo* will be maintained, but the relations between the Vali of Bussorah and the Sheik[illegible] Koweit cannot remain as they are" (literally "there must be a [illegible] them"). "It is a matter of common right and common justice that I should be able to get back criminals and deserters from Koweit. As it is the Persian [illegible] Mohammerah attend to my requests, while the Sheikh of Koweit will not." I asked whether such cases of the Sheikh harbouring criminals or deserters had occurred lately. He said: "There have been small assault cases. But it is a question of the [illegible] of men. Such cases should be impossible, Koweit being so near [illegible] that the Vali had really no serious complaint to make at the [illegible]

[illegible]

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received May 11.)

India Office, May 10, 190[illegible]

[illegible] of Sir A. Har[illegible]

[illegible]

HORACE WALPOLE.

[illegible] *May 11*, [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] esty's Ambas[illegible]

[illegible] the Empire [illegible]

I am, &c.
(Signed) [illegible]

(Foreign Office, May 13.)

17

Sir,

Bussorah, April 22, 1905.

CROW

Office.—(Received May 13.)

No. 20

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 20.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, May 13, 1905.

to previous correspondence, I transmit to your Excellency herewith copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Minister at Tehran,* relative to the

Hardinge's description of the relations of Turkey with Koweit in his with the Mushir-ed-Dowleh appears to have been correct, and I consider ly and conveniently adopted in any discussions with the Turkish Koweit

I am, &c.

Signed LANSDOWNE

Lansdowne to Sir A. Hardinge.

Foreign Office, May 13, 1905.

I HAVE considered, in communication with the Secretary of State for India, your despatch No. 57 of the 16th March, reporting your conversation with the Mushir-ed-Dowleh regarding British intervention on behalf of Koweit. Aral Persia.

The action which you have taken, as well as the language which you used to H Mushir-ed-Dowleh on this subject, is entirely approved by His Majesty's Government.

You should use your discretion as to taking further steps in the matter.

Signed LANSDOWNE

Received May 15.

My Lord,

Constantin

I by the serious aspect of the Mansfield despatch of which I have the honour to sidering herewith

ve been sent to or are under orders for the Yemen; the Sir, in reserves disappointingly weak as the

great that the Government is seriously perplexed at the possible prospect of forth at this season of the War Office seems to be quit emedies. Apart f ously thos

e with respect ships had been ordered to Hodeidah and expressed ent there as their presence would be indirectly a

had not heard of any British ships having lately been ordered to did not give any assurance that a ship or two would not be sent r Indian fellow subjects either in Jeddah or Hodeidah w

I have &c.

* See Part II. No. 140

Inclosure in No. [illegible]

[illegible]

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. R. MA[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]sure 1 in No [illegible]

Consul Deane to Sir R[illegible]

[illegible]

SIR,

IN forwarding [illegible] the 15th instant [illegible] transmitted here to the [illegible] recent date fr[illegible] see the [illegible] Mo[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] Locally that Marshal [illegible] [illegible] with a [illegible]

[illegible] the patrol at p[illegible]

A. RICHARDSON.

[illegible] *May* 15

[illegible], *May* 9, 1905

[illegible] one of a d[illegible] Majesty's [illegible] on the [illegible]

R. O'CONNOR.

[illegible] of Ma[illegible]

Constantinople, May 4, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to report that an order has just been issued for the [illegible] Redif Division (sixteen batta[illegible]) [illegible] to mobilize and hold itself in readiness to pro[illegible]

[illegible] Constantinople) corps, and are the best figh[illegible]

[illegible] and passing through Constantino[illegible] [illegible] 2 ob[illegible] [illegible] Bassan Redif Brigade refuses to mobilize [illegible] have finally been collected at Damazzo, [illegible]

[illegible] total number of [illegible] 2,000 men, of 600 pe[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] of 28,000 men which with the 5,000 recruits sent from [illegible] 000, as the complete strength of the new expeditionary for[illegible] [illegible]ark without arms and are to receive the large cache Mauser [illegible] Omdah, these to be sent from the arsenal here [illegible] [illegible]ly possess this weapon, and will take it with them, but [illegible] move up country with a rifle of which they have no previous [illegible] [illegible] has numerous defects

India Office, Ma

Muscat, April 3, 19

Foreign Office to India Office

WITH reference to your letter of the

(Signed) EDWIN

India Office

Foreign Office, May 15, 190

I have the honour to state that His Majesty's Government agree to the suggestion of the Government of the French Republic that, in view of the delay which has arisen in the appointment of an Umpire in the Muscat Arbitration, the date for the delivery of the arguments on behalf of the two Governments should be postponed from the 1st June to a date to be fixed by the Arbitrators themselves.

His Majesty's Government have to-day received a despatch from His Majesty's Ambassador at Rome, conveying an official announcement of the designation by His Majesty the King of Italy of Dr. Heinrich Lammasch to act as Umpire. The

Bureau at The Hague of this appointment in order

presented may be forwarded to Dr. Lammasch with as little

The decision of the two Governments relative to the postponement in the delivery of the arguments might then, as proposed by your Excellency, be embodied in a further supplementary Agreement similar to that of the 13th January, copies of which would, as before, be communicated to the Permanent Bureau.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 38.

Foreign Office to India Office.

Sir,

Foreign Office, May 13, 1905.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit to you, to be laid before the Secretary of State for India, copy of a despatch to His Majesty's Ambassador at Paris,* recording a conversation on the 8th instant with the French Ambassador who stated that the French Government were dissatisfied with Major Cox' attitude in regard to the Muscat Arbitration.

I am to request that Lord Lansdowne may be favoured with Mr. Brodrick's observations on this communication.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 39.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 2[illegible].)

No. 3[illegible]
My Lord,

Constantinople, May 11, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith a despatch from His Majesty's Consul-General at Smyrna, reporting on the return of exiles from the Yemen to Rhodes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. [illegible]

Consul-General Cumberbatch to Sir N. O'Conor.

No. 24.)
Sir,

Smyrna, May 5, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 3 of the 13th January, 1905, on the subject of the arrival at Rhodes of political prisoners from the Yemen, I have the [illegible] your Excellency that Mr. Acting Vice-Consul Doughty-Wylie reports the arrival at Rhodes, on the 28th ultimo, of the Ottoman despatch boat "Fund" with Chakir Pasha, ex-Valí of Uskub, who is proceeding to the Yemen at the head of a special mission.

Mustafa Pasha, who had left for Scio, returned to Rhodes with Chakir Pasha by orders from Constantinople.

All the exiled Yemenis on the island were collected together and, out of 70, 38 volunteered to do their utmost and use their influence on arrival in the country to assist the Turks in carrying out the Government's plans. These 38 men were therefore embarked on board the "Fund," which left on the 28th ultimo for the Red Sea.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 40.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 16.)

No. [illegible]
My Lord,

Constantinople, May 12, 1905.

I HAVE to-day received from His Majesty's Consul at Bussorah a telegram dated the 8th May, stating that telegram No. 28:—

Letter from the Mushir to Vali and telegram from Commandant of Medina contingent to the Palace state that the troops entered Boreyda on the 2nd and Aneyza on the 7th April (o.s.) without resistance. They were well received by the inhabitants who submitted with good grace. Turkish flag was hoisted, salute fired, and prayers read for the Sultan. Administrative posts have been established in both towns.

In a later telegram, No. 29 of the 10th May, Mr. Crow reports:

[illegible] telegram from newly appointed Kaimakam of [illegible] confirm report of the peaceful occupation [illegible] of Commanding at Wakea to return to [illegible] telegram from the new [illegible] government conferred [illegible]

In Medina [illegible]

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 41.

Sir H. Howard to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 17.)

(No. 86.)
My Lord,

The Hague, May 15, 1905.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 36 of the 5th instant, I have the [illegible] a copy of the joint note which my French colleague and I addressed [illegible] of the International Bureau on the 12th instant, notifying the [illegible] to be given His Majesty's Government and the Government of France that the English and French languages may be used concurrently in the proceedings of the Tribunal in the Muscat Arbitration, as also a copy of M. de Raissouniers' reply acknowledging the receipt of our communications.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY HOWARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 41.

Note addressed to International Bureau by British and French Ambassadors.

M. le Secrétaire Général,

La Haye, le 13 Mai, 1905.

LES Gouvernements de France et de Grande-Bretagne, d'un commun accord et [illegible] et désireux de permettre l'emploi des langues Française et [illegible] de l'Arbitrage Muscat [illegible]

[illegible] Membres du Tribunal.

Ministre de Grande-Bretagne,
(Signé) HENRY HOWARD.
Le Ministre de France,
(Signé) D. MONBEL.

Inclosure 2 in No. 41.

Raissouniers to British and French Ambassadors.

Y[illegible]

La Haye, le 15 Mai, 1905.

[illegible] rant, votre Excellence a bien voulu me faire part que les [illegible] d'un commun accord et pour des

[illegible]

En vous accusant réception de cette déclaration, q[illegible] connaissance des Membres du Tribunal, je saisis, &c.

(Signé) L. H. RUYSSENAERS.

Envoyé Extraordinaire, &c.

No. 42

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received May 17.)

[illegible] Under-Secretary of State for India [illegible] Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs [illegible] to the Viceroy, dated the 11th May, relative to the report that the Sheikh of Bahrein has declared himself a Turkish subject.

India Office, May 17, 1905.

Enclosure in No. 42.

Mr. Brodrick to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P. *India Office, May 11, 190[illegible]*

BAHREIN. Have you any confirmation of report that Sheikh Isa of Bahrein has declared himself a Turkish subject in consequence of recent events? Statement to this effect has been made here by Turkish Ambassador on authority of Commander of troops at Bagdad.

No. 4[illegible]

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received May 17.)

[illegible] Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and by direction of Mr. [illegible] forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 11th May, relative to the [illegible]

India Office, May 17, 1905.

Enclosure in No. 4[illegible]

Government of India to Mr. Brodrick.

May 16, 190[illegible]

[illegible] at Aden to Political Agent [illegible] on the 12th instant as follows:—

In a letter received from Political Officer at Lahej it is stated that the Kaimakam of Katabi is proceeding to Aden having resigned his office as he anticipated removal. Kaimakam has informed Political Officer that on the 20th ultimo a compromise was entered into between the Governor of Sanaa and the Imam by which it was agreed that each side should retain possession of the districts actually held by them on that date. This arrangement still awaits ratification by the Porte, but it seems impossible [illegible]

No. 43

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Conor.

[illegible]

Foreign Office, May 17, 190[illegible]

THE Turkish Ambassador, in reference to my statement made to him on the 3rd instant that the Turkish Government was in the habit of putting forward frivolous complaints against the British Government, told me to-day that the Turkish Government would probably reply that in the case of some at all events of these complaints the British Government had not returned any answer. His Excellency cited his communication of the 18th January as to Koweit, of the 8th March as to the occupation of Menawa, in the neighbourhood of Bahrein, of the 8th April upon the same subject, and of the 3rd instant in regard to Koweit.

I am, &c.

(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 4[illegible]

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received May 19.)

[illegible] Sir A. Godley's letter of the 3rd May, the Under-Secretary of [illegible] presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign [illegible], by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information [illegible] State, copy of enclosure in a letter from the Foreign Secretary [illegible] the Government of India, dated the 29th April, relative to the intended visit of the French Vice-Consul at Muscat to Sur.

India Office, May 17, 1905.

Enclosure in No. 45.

Major Grey to the Government of India.

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Muscat, April 3, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to refer to your telegram dated the 27th ultimo, and in so doing would invite a perusal of my letter dated the 14th January 1905.

The exact course taken by me in regard to the French Vice-Consul's proposed journey is not described in my letter with sufficient exactness, and a slight misunderstanding has been the result. I did not move the Sultan to refuse facilities for the journey, which he had not, so far as I know, been asked to provide, and which, in his interests, it would not have been advisable for him to refuse in the present phase of the French flag question. All I did was to point out to him the dangers likely to result from the French Vice-Consul's visit to that particular part of the country, and to suggest that he should recommend my colleague not to travel in that direction at present owing to the unsettled condition of the tribes, and the increase of anti-European feeling occasioned by recent events connected with Masirah Island.

3. The French Vice-Consul now talks of paying his usual yearly visit to Sur in May, and the effect of this visit will doubtless be to strengthen the opposition of certain members of the Sur community to His Highness the Sultan's jurisdiction, and to increase the number of malcontents.

4. A copy of this letter has been forwarded to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, Bushire.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. G. GREY.

A.

No. 46

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir F. Bertie

(No. 2)
Sir,

Foreign Office, May 19, 1905

I SIGNED with the French Ambassador to-day an Agreement, of which a copy is inclosed,* supplementary to those already signed on the 13th October, 1904, and the 14th January last, in regard to the Muscat Arbitration.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE

No. 47

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Musurus Pasha

Your Excellency,

Foreign Office, May 20, 1905

I REFERRED to His Majesty's Secretary of State for India the telegram fr[illegible] [illegible]ander of the 6th Army Corps at Baghdad, relative to recent events at Bahr[illegible] communicated by you on the 12th ultimo.

[illegible] statements contained in the telegram are in many matters [illegible] aspects incorrect and exaggerated. His Majesty's Government can[illegible] [illegible] discussion of the more trivial incidents on the occasion to which your Excellency refers, and I must repeat the statement made in Sir P. Currie's note to the Sublime Porte of the 12th August, 1895, and in conversation with your Secretary on the 22nd February last, that, the Island of Bahrein being under British protection, His Majesty's Government are entirely within their rights in taking any measures they may think fit to obtain redress for outrages there or to protect the island from [illegible]

His Majesty's Government must therefore decline to entertain any further representations from the Turkish Government on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE

No. 48

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 22.)

No. 332.
My Lord,

Constantinople, May 12, 1905.

IN the course of conversation with the Minister for Foreign Affairs on the 1st [illegible] I communicated to his Excellency the views of the Indian G[illegible] [illegible] the steps to be taken by the military authorities of Aden in case the insurgent A[illegible] in the Yemen should cross the boundary into the nine cantons, as expla[illegible] [illegible] Lordship's telegram No. 25 of the 14th March, and yesterday his Excellen[illegible] Mr. Lamb that the arrival of a British force in the Amiri had been rep[illegible] [illegible] Kakakum of Kataba. Tewfik Pasha added that in a subsequen[illegible] [illegible] Kakakum had informed him that official notification of the advent of this force, which numbered 600 or 700 men, had been given by the British Political Officer at Dthah, who had explained that it had been sent in view of the possibility of the insurgents advancing on Kataba, to preserve order on the border, and to prevent the revolted tribes from crossing it.

Tewfik Pasha said that he wished to express the thanks of his Government for [illegible] of the British authorities in this matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR

No. 49.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 22.)

No. 339.)
My Lord,

Constantinople, May 15, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith a despatch from His Majesty's Consul at Damascus, reporting the departure of Turkish officers to constitute a court-martial in the Yemen.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR

Inclosure in No. 49.

Consul Richards to Sir N. O'Conor.

No. 24.
Sir,

Damascus, May 3, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to report that yesterday, the 2nd instant, Lieutenant-Colonel Kyamil Pasha, Commanding the Redifs of this Ordu, accompanied by Major-General Ali Mansour Pasha, coming from Aleppo, and Colonels Shem'i Bey and Khalil Bey, at present stationed here, left Damascus for Beyrout *en route* for the Yemen, where [illegible] [illegible]rmed they are to constitute a court-martial, of which the first-named officer [illegible] the President.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. S. RICHARDS.

No. 50.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 2[illegible])

(No. 341.)
My Lord,

Constantinople, May 15, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith a despatch from His Majesty's Consul-General at Baghdad, reporting that a regiment, forming part of the Nejd Expedition, had been sent back to Nejd.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR

Inclosure in No. 50.

Consul-General Newmarch to Sir N. O'Conor.

[illegible]

April 15, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to submit, for your Excellency's information, the following extract from my diary to the Government of India of to-day's date:

"I received the following information on the 14th April, 1904:

"It is said that Fazil Pasha has sent back another regiment to Nejd, as [illegible] has more troops than are necessary for the expedition.

"He also sent to Nejd a detachment of twelve men under a lieutenant to rep[illegible] [illegible]st. Kavass Mohammad Derwish's brother, the s[illegible] [illegible] detachment. On nearing Nejd the sergeant's camel [illegible] unable to keep up with the others. About an hour's distance from Nejd [illegible] attacked by several Arabs, severely wounded, and stripped of all he had. He is at present in the military hospital at Baghdad and is doing well.

[illegible] the force, over 750 having died on the way from Nejd to Leena.

"About five days ago 200 camel-loads of flour and rusks were sent to Fazil Pasha from Baghdad.

[illegible] Abdul,* the muleteer, says that zaptiehs are still out in the districts com[illegible]s, and that although his camels, which were detained at Khanakin, were released at my intervention, he is afraid that further attempts to impress them may still be made.

[illegible] I think I shall be able to prevent any further attempts to commandeer [illegible]

I have, &c.
(Signed) L. S. NEWMARCH, *Major.*

No. [illegible]

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 22.)

(No. 347.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, May 16, 1905.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith a despatch from Lieutenant-Colonel Maunsell, Military Attaché to His Majesty's Embassy, reporting on [illegible] station of the Kharput Redif Brigade for the Yemen.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

[illegible]

Lieutenant-Colonel Maunsell to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 24.)
Sir, *Constantinople, May 15, 1905.*

I HAVE the honour to report that the Kharput Redif Brigade, belonging to the IVth Ordu, has re[illegible] to Alexandretta, and embarking there for Hodeida.

This represents a force of eight battalions or 7,000 men, practically all of Kordish race, and implies the withdrawal of this number of men from the corps watching the Russian frontier, and which was partly employed last year in suppressing the Armenian troubles.

Of the other reinforcements ordered to the Yemen only the eight Nizam battalions, 4,000 men, from Yanina, has arrived at Hodeida. These troops have marched up country and entered Menakha, thereby assuring the pos[illegible] replacing the mutinous Syrian troops who previously held it. This certainly improves the situation for the Turks, and their present intention is to remain on the defensive until all the reinforcements arrive.

The climate of Menakha, situated about 7,000 feet above the sea, is very fairly [illegible] The column based on Menakha, operating from Taiz, still holds the latter place, and is, as the War Minister informs me, specially designed to prevent troubles on the frontier of the nine Cantons of the Aden Protectorate. It consists of some 2,000 men, under the c[illegible]

The Imam's force remains quiescent, and shows no tendency to advance, which, judging from previous campaigns in Yemen, is the line of action they may be expected to take.

After the effort made, which culminated in the taking of Sanaa, it is most probable that many men have gone off to collect plunder, and for this and [illegible] seems to be a period of quiescence after the victory.

Thus there seems no immediate danger of a movement towards Hodeida, although there have been persistent rumours last week that the place was attacked; this is probably by local tribes, who are also disaffected.

At the same time, the remaining reinforcements are a long way off, although the two hired transports "Los Andes" and "Bithynie" have been sent to Smyrna to embark the Istan[illegible]

The "Nijni Novgorod" has left for the Adriatic coast to take Redifs from Durazzo; but the Rize men from the Black Sea coast have not yet begun to move.

It will, however, be at least another fortnight before any other reinforcements can reach Hodeida.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. MAUNSELL,
Military Attaché.

No. 52.

Mr. Johnstone to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 22.)

No. 11.
My Lord, *Vienna, May 17, 1905.*

ON the receipt of your Lordship's telegram No. 58 of the 15th instant, respecting the nomination by the King of Italy of Dr. Lammasch to act as Umpire in the Muscat Arbitration Commission, I inquired of the French Ambassador whether he had heard anything of the appointment.

His Excellency said that he had no information on the subject, and I then told him I proposed to make inquiries at the "Ballplatz," and would let him know the result.

At the Ministry Herr von Mueller informed me that the Italian Ambassador had a few days before made unofficial inquiries if the Austro-Hungarian Government would object to Dr. Lammasch's nomination, and had been answered in the negative. On the 11th they had received an official note from his Excellency stating that the King of [illegible] Dr. Lammasch, which they considered did not require an [illegible] in view of what had been done unofficially, and closed the incident as far as [illegible]

Herr von Mueller added that Dr. Lammasch, who is a Life Member of the Upper [illegible] distinguished man, an authority on international law, and had been [illegible] the Austrian Delegates to The Hague Peace Conference. He speaks both [illegible] and English fluently.

[illegible] called on the Italian Ambassador, who explained to me that Dr. Lammasch had unofficially accepted the post of Umpire, but had not yet notified his acceptance in writing. His Excellency said he expected an official answer from Count Colloredo to his notification of Dr. Lammasch's appointment, and seemed surprised when I told him I understood the Ministry did not think it required an answer.

Some of these of rules of routine, to which the Duke of Avarna alludes, seem to have probably delayed the official notification of Dr. Lammasch's appointment.

I subsequently informed the French Ambassador of what I had learnt at the "Ballplatz" and from his Italian colleague, and M. de Reverseaux told me he should write on the subject to M. Delcassé.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALAN JOHNSTONE.

No. [illegible]

Foreign Office to India Office.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May 22, 1905.*

WITH reference to my letter of the 19th ultimo, I am directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit to you, for the information of the Secretary of State for India, copies of despatches from His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, respecting the Turkish military post on Bubian Island.*

Sir N. O'Conor expresses his apprehension (*vide* 4th paragraph of his despatch No. 248 of the 17th ultimo) that the Turkish Government might propose a "bargain," by which, in return for the evacuation of Bubian Island by the Turkish soldiers, His Majesty's Government would consent to withdraw their Agent permanently from K[illegible] Upon this point I am to observe that, should the proposal be made, it might, in [illegible] opinion, certainly not be accepted. He adheres to the opinion [illegible] in December, 1904, that these questions must be kept

* See Part II, No. 141, and *ante*, No. 18.

N

separate and distinct in any discussions with the Turkish Government, and that His Majesty's Government must reserve absolutely the right to dispatch an Agent from time to time to Koweit.

With a view, however, to obviating the eventuality which his Excellency fears, it might be desirable that any further representation to the Porte should be postponed until Major Knox has been temporarily withdrawn from Koweit, which will, it is understood, be almost immediately.

Lord Lansdowne would propose that Sir N. O'Conor should then again approach the Turkish Government and ask whether the soldiers have been withdrawn from Bahran Island. Should the answer prove unsatisfactory, Major Knox might be sent [illegible] out, and might subsequently arrange for the establishment of a [illegible] by the Sheikh. It would be a matter for [illegible] Sir N. O'Conor should announce to the Porte the intention [illegible] cent in this respect, and this might, perhaps, be left to His Excellency [illegible]

I am to add, however, that his Lordship would wish to have more definite information as to the nature of the support which it would be necessary to afford the Sheikh for the establishment of the post in question. It will be seen that Sir N. O'Conor anticipates considerable difficulty in inducing the Sheikh to [illegible]

(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 54.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received May 23.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy dated the 22nd May, relative to the report that the Sheikh of Bahrein had declared himself a Turkish subject.

India Office, May 23, 1905.

Inclosure in No. 54.

Government of India to Mr. Brodrick.

(Telegraphic.) P. *May 22, 1905.*

VICEROY. Resident in Persian Gulf telegraphs on the 17th instant, with reference to yours of the 11th instant, as follows:—

"[illegible] received from Pretoria do not afford the least reason for supposing that there is any truth in the statement as to Sheikh Esa having declared himself Turkish subject. Probably it has been invented as a development of Talib Bey's suggestion in his report on Arabia, paragraph 18, which will be found in the file of papers relating to the despatch from Sir N. O'Conor to Lord Lansdowne, [illegible] August 1901. [illegible] wait to make confidential inquiries on the point and to report the result. I do not think it would be wise to ask the Sheikh himself what truth there is in the statement, and so put ideas into his head.

No. 55.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received May 24.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, dated the 20th ultimo, relative to the affairs of Nejd.

India Office, May 23, 1905.

Inclosure 1 in No. 55.

Major Cox to Government of India.

Bushire, March 12, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to forward copies of a letter and inclosure received from the Political Agent, Koweit, in which he reports Sheikh Mubarak's version of the recent interviews between Ibn Saood and the Wali of Busorah.

I append at the same time purport of a letter which I addressed to Sheikh Mubarak in this connection on the 7th instant.

2. I thought it as well to include in my letter a brief incidental reference to Bahrein affairs.

Inclosure 2 in No. 55.

Captain Knox to [illegible]

Koweit, February 28, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the notes taken by me at an interview with Sheikh Mubarak on the morning of the 28th February, at which the Sheikh informed me of what took place at the recent meeting at Sefwan.

I venture to suggest, for your consideration, whether some reassuring communication might not be addressed to the Sheikh approving the correct attitude taken up by him—according to his own statement—on this occasion. This would, I think, be appreciated.

Inclosure 3 in No. 55.

Notes of Interview with Sheikh Mubarak on February 28, at which he informed me of what took place at the recent Interviews between his Excellency the Wali of Busorah and Sheikh Mubarak-es-Sabah and Sheikh Abdur Rahman-bin-Feysal bin Saood at Sefwan.

1. *Preliminary.*

SHEIKH MUBARAK began by saying that the work was not at all to his taste and that the weather had been very cold and there was no food for the horses, and that generally he had come back dissatisfied.

2. *First Meeting.*

The first meeting took place on the 6th February.

3. *Interview with Sheikh Mubarak.*

It appears that his Excellency the Wali of Busorah first saw Sheikh Mubarak, and the Sheikh told him that he had come as requested and had brought Abdur Rahman bin-Feysal bin-Saood. He added that he had no concern with the affairs of Nejd, and must now leave his Excellency to settle matters with Bin Saood.

4. *Interview with Bin Saood.*

Bin Saood was then summoned and presented his case. He said that he and his friends had petitioned the Ottoman Government against Bin Rashid and his tyranny, but no answer was returned to their petitions.

Then they took the law into their own hands and had crushed Bin Rashid.

The result was that Bin Rashid returned with soldiers and intercepted all the messengers Bin Saood was sending to the Sultan, and Abdur Rahman-bin-Saood could get no red[illegible].

They then fought with Bin Rashid and the soldiers.

He then went on to say: "When your Excellency sent for me I came at your orders. I will not have Bin Rashid interfering in Nejd affairs, and will fight him if he comes with soldiers. I will not resist the Turkish Government provided Bin Rashid is kept away from me and my people. You have, however, no right and no interest in our countries, and our people hate the soldiers.

6. *The Wali leaves.*

His Excellency then went off, saying that he must communicate with Constantinople.

7. *Second Interview.*

On the night of the 14th February his Excellency returned, with a telegram from Constantinople to Gishaniya, a few miles on the Koweit side of Sefwan, where the two Sheikhs were encamped.

8. *Terms of Settlement.*

(*a*) The first point in the telegram was that Bin Rashid was to have nothing to do with Nejd affairs.

(*b*) The second point: the Turkish Government will seize El Kasim [illegible] was really the wording of the telegram it is rather curious reading. To this Ibn Saood made no objection.

(*c*) The third point: Sheikh Mubarak must be a party to the agreement.

9. *Sheikh Mubarak's Opinion.*

[illegible] the third condition Sheikh Mubarak flatly refused to consent. He told his [illegible] that the people of Nejd were a seditious, turbulent lot, that he did not stop [illegible] having trade relations with his town of Koweit, but that he kept only one man at El Kasim. He pointed out how the newspapers had been busy with his name, saying that he had been sending English guns, money, and provisions to Nejd, which was utterly untrue and that he refused to have anything to do with Nejd politics.

As soon as the conference was over he would go to Hageyja and Abdur Rahman to [illegible] and thence to his own place. Their ways lay apart. Abdur Rahman was his friend and Ibn Rashid his enemy, and he hoped with all his heart that Abdur Rahman would get the better of Ibn Rashid.

That, as regards the Agreement, he hoped that matters would go well, but that if they did not his Excellency must settle the question with Bin Saood. Sheikh Mubarak [illegible] thing to do with it and was [illegible]

[illegible]

The question of British protection was discussed, and Sheikh Mubarak was asked [illegible] all of them.

Sheikh Mubarak replied that he wanted nothing, and, as regards abandoning the British—

"If you were to give me all Bussorah I would not do it. The relations between us, especially of trade and friendship, are of long standing, and what you ask is impossible. Nothing new has taken place. You have never had any authority in my town and I have committed no breach of friendship against your Government. I have come here and brought Bin Saood, at your request and at great expense to myself. This alone is [illegible] by the English. If I ventured on the course of action you propose my subjects would not support me, and would leave me for the English."

11. *Bash-Katib.*

The Wali then asked him if he had not written to the Bash-Katib at Constantinople, and Sheikh Mubarak denied having done so.

[N.B.—I do not understand this last remark. Possibly Bussorah or Constantinople can explain.—S. G. K.]

12. *General Remarks and subsequent Conversation with the Sheikh.*

All the above was said slowly and steadily, and was evidently the impression which Sheikh Mubarak wished to convey to the British Government of what had taken place at Sefwan. It had been, I should say, carefully studied and rehearsed.

Turkish Soldiers in Nejd.

I asked Sheikh Mubarak what was going to be done about soldiers. He said that men were to be posted in Anexya and Boreyda, but not at Riadh. Abdur Rahman would not allow that. He also said that the Mushir at Bagdad was under orders to proceed and settle the administration, but that he refused to go, pleading sickness. I have heard this from another source.

R I M S. "Investigator."

I mentioned that the "Investigator" was expected shortly to complete the work [illegible] and begun. The Sheikh made no objection, but said that the Wali had attacked him on this point also, when he explained that the "Investigator" was merely concerned with collecting information about the harbour and insuring the safety of vessels, a laudable occupation to which no one could reasonably take exception.

M. Gognyer's Rifles.

I then said that I had already some days back informed Sheikh Jabir-bin-Mubarak that M. Gognyer had sent a boom full of rifles to Koweit from Muscat. The Sheikh said that such a thing was quite impossible; that he had turned Gognyer out of Koweit [illegible] that if such a thing came to his knowledge he would promptly confiscate the entire cargo.

I thanked the Sheikh for all the information he had given me, and expressed my pleasure at his return to Koweit. The Sheikh at once took up the same tune, and was unusually profuse in professions of friendship and attachment [illegible] that he was going out hawking to Sirra and beyond, and hoped that I would accompany him.

I mention these latter trifles as I consider them important indications of the Sheikh's attitude at the present juncture. Mubarak is not gushing as a rule, and I think that he is distinctly nervous as to the view the British may take of his Sefwan policy.

Inclosure 4 in No. 55.

Major Cox to Sheikh Mubarak es-Subah.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.) *March 7, 1905.*

BE it known to you that your friend has just returned to Bushire after some days' absence at Bahrein, and I am very pleased to learn on my arrival from Captain Knox' letters, news regarding the meetings at Sefwan, and as to the correct attitude which you appear to have adopted in remaining an impartial onlooker, and in abstaining [illegible] involving yourself with the affairs of Ibn Saood and the politics of Nejd.

You are a wise man, and your sight is long.

I shall not omit to inform Government, and doubt not that they will receive with approval and gratification the news that you have been guided by their advice in this matter.

With regard to Bahrein you will perhaps have heard of my going there.

Two months ago I found that there was disorder in Manama and no security for subjects, and this was due to Sheikh Esa's Government being slack, and perhaps also to the promptings of bad advisers, and this could not properly be allowed to continue.

Now, thank God Sheikh Esa has come to realize that Government only wish prosperity to his State and security for all, and that his interests are bound up in preserving concord with the Sarkar.

If it interests you, Captain Knox will tell you further details of recent events there, and I hope from your wisdom and friendliness that when corresponding with Sheikh Esa, you will give him profitable advice.

Inclosure 5 in No. 55.

Captain Trevor to Government of India.

(Confidential.) *Bushire, March 20, 1905.*

IN continuation of my letter dated the 12th March, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of Sheikh Mubarak's reply to the letter which I addressed to him on the subject of the meeting at Selwan.

Inclosure 6 in No. 55.

Sheikh Mubarak-es-Sabah to Major Cox.

8 *Muharram*, 1323 (*March* 15, 1905).

I HAVE received your letter dated the 30th Zilhyjah, 1322, stating that after [illegible] you had perused the communications made by Captain Knox regarding the Majlis convened at Sefwan.

I always represent to Captain Knox whatever takes place with us. As to myself, I do not wish and will not, interfere with Nejd affairs at all, because I understood from the beginning that they were injurious in the end, and because interested persons like Ibn Rashid and Yusif el-Brahim were concerned in them.

Furthermore, this affair has no connection with me, and my object is only the safety of our territories and prosperity of our trade.

Inshalah by the kind attentions of the High Government we will remain at ease and continue our friendly relations, and fulfil our obligations.

No. 56.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received May 25.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a Secret despatch to the Government of India, dated the 19th May, relative to the question of hoisting the British flag at Cape Musandim.

Copies have been sent to the Admiralty and the Defence Committee.

India Office, May 24, 1905.

Inclosure in No. 56.

Mr. Brodrick to Government of India.

(Secret.)

My Lord, *India Office, May* 19, 1905.

WITH reference to my telegram of the 30th December last, I have to inform your Excellency that the question of hoisting the British flag at Cape Musandim has been fully considered in all its bearings by His Majesty's Government.

2. The object which the Government of India desire to attain, as stated in their Secret letters in the Foreign Department of the 23rd October, 1902, and the 21st January, 1904, is to prevent any foreign Power establishing a commanding post on at the entrance of the Persian Gulf. His Majesty's Government are in [illegible] agreement with your Excellency as to the necessity of preventing any such action on the part of a foreign Power, the first result of which would be to entail an increase of naval expenditure and a rearrangement of our naval dispositions. It only remains, therefore, to consider the best means of securing this object.

3. The method which the Government of India have desired to adopt, viz. [illegible] the British flag at certain points in the immediate vicinity of Cape Ma[illegible], is open to the objection that it would not confer upon us any special rights in the places selected, unless it were accompanied by a specific proclamation of protectorate or annexation. On the other hand, an open assertion of our claims to those [illegible] might excite the jealousy of other Powers, and give rise to political complications [illegible] make it clear that His Majesty's Government [illegible] pation by any foreign Power of any port or territory [illegible] It will be within your Excellency's recollection that on the [illegible] Lord Lansdowne stated in the House of Lords that "we should regard [illegible] nt of a naval base or of a fortified port in the Persian Gulf by any other Power as a very great menace to British interests, and we should certainly resist it with all the means at our disposal." To this declaration His Majesty's Government adhere, and it is their intention to rely upon it for the protection of [illegible] interests.

4. These considerations have led His Majesty's Government, as I stated in my telegram of the 31st March last, to modify the orders contained in my telegram of the 4th August, 1904. They arrived at the conclusion that the flagstaffs on Sheep Island and the isthmus between Malcolm and Elphinstone Inlets should be [illegible] ned, and that it would be sufficient for the purposes of the policy laid down in [illegible] ceding paragraph to maintain the flagstaff upon Telegraph Island as a sign of [illegible] ntinuance of our occupation of that spot which first took place in connection with the operations of the Eastern Telegraph Company in 1864.

5. The opinion of His Majesty's Government with regard to the flagstaff on Telegraph Island was based on the conclusion formulated in the Secret letter from your Excellency's Government, of the 23rd October, 1902, that the jurisdiction of the Sultan of Muscat over the Makl Inlet Isthmus and Musandim Promontory was of so uncertain and ineffective a character that it would be open to His Majesty's Government to ignore it.

7. The position has, however, been materially altered by Mr. Lorimer's inquiries, the result of which is reported in his note of the 22nd March last; and I gather from your Excellency's telegrams of the 27th March and 15th April last that the Government of India are no longer prepared to ignore the fact of the Sultan's sovereignty over Musandim.

8. In the changed circumstances, having regard to the co[illegible] above (paragraph 3), and in view of the grounds upon which Her late Ma[illegible] Government protested to the French Government against the cession to them by the Sultan of Bunder Gasseh in 1898, I request that your Excellency's Government will again take into your consideration the question of the maintenance of the flagstaff on Telegraph Island, in the light of the further information now in your possession, and inform me of your views. In the meantime nothing should be done in anticipation of the final decision of His Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ST. JOHN BRODRICK.

No. 57.

Director of Military Operations to Foreign Office.—(Received May 2.)

THE Director of Military Operations presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and forwards for his information a Memorandum on the state of affairs in Arabia, in view of the present disturbed state of some of the Turkish provinces.

Winchester House, St. James's Square,
London, May 24, 1905.

Inclosure in No. 57.

Memorandum respecting the State of Affairs in Arabia.

THE revolt in Southern Arabia against the Sultan of Turkey seems to be [illegible] an acute stage, and may prove to be an event of more than local importance. Of the three Red Sea coast provinces of Turkey—Hejaz, Asir, and Yemen—the northern province, is the most important, for it contains the holy cities of [illegible] and Medina. Asir, the central, is a wild and inhospitable region, and is [illegible] ledge the Sultan as Kaliph. Yemen, a comparatively fertile country with a fairly [illegible] into but largely peopled also by Shia Arabs, was first occupied by the Turks [illegible] the sixteenth century. Later on it was governed by a succession of Imams, semi-priest rulers descended from the Prophet. The period of Imam government lasted till 1872, when the Porte reasserted its direct rule, since this time the Turks in their dealings with the tribesmen have had more or less constant trouble, caused both by religious differences and by the incompetence and rapacity of the Turkish officials.

[illegible] spreading [illegible] Turkish rule in Asir is now practically limited to the Red Sea littoral. In 1904 the Yemen revolt assumed a [illegible] form and has now resulted in the loss to the Turks of Sana, capital of the [illegible] province, containing a [illegible] expected to fall. The [illegible] troops have succeeded [illegible] forcing the above.

4. The semi-official German Press has asserted that the present Arab revolt against the Sultan is the result of a deep laid scheme on the part of the British Government to pave the way for British supremacy in the Arabian Peninsula, and [illegible] to proclaim a Protectorate over Koweit and Bussorah. The Military Attaché at Constantinople reports that no opportunity of impressing the Porte with this view has been wasted, a proceeding which may be attributed to the fact that an independent or semi-independent Arabian Empire would certainly menace German interests in connection with the Bagdad Railway scheme.

5. The Arab revolutionary movement is not confined to the Yemen only: in [illegible] signs of importance against Turkish rule or pretensions took place both in Central Arabia and Mesopotamia and, to a lesser extent, in [illegible] parts, and these still continue. up to date, however, there appears to be no [illegible] to indicate an of a *concerted* and general Arab rising against the Sultan.

6. In Central Arabia, Feizi Pasha, who commanded the Turkish expedition from Bagdad against Ibn Saud, and lately succeeded in effecting a junction near Hail with [illegible] Turkish force dispatched from Medina, has been transferred to Yemen as Commander-in-chief. As a consequence of these expeditions, Mesopotamia and Hejaz were to some extent denuded of troops. In Mesopotamia some of the tribes have lately risen in insurrection but details are not available.

7. It is difficult to estimate the numbers of the Yemen rebels; they lately defeated the Sana relief column, consisting of 5,000 men and eight mountain batteries, and are now in occupation of most of the interior of the Yemen Province, having captured the Turkish garrisons. Some reports estimate their numbers at 20,000 armed

men with about thirty Turkish field guns. They are armed with Martinis or captured Mannlichers, and are reported to have captured large stores of ammunition.

8. Large Turkish reinforcements (consisting mainly of Syrian and also of Albanian troops) should have by now arrived at Hodeida. Further reinforcements are under orders from Macedonia, Armenia, and Syria, but, owing to the unpopularity of the war, the men are not coming in readily, and difficulties in transport arrangements have also caused delays. In addition, the Syrian troops have proved unsatisfactory and are often mutinous.

9. The successful Vali of Uscub (Macedonia), Shakir Pasha, has been sent to Yemen with 30,000*l* to bribe the Arab Chiefs to submit: to judge by former [illegible] attempts at buying off the insurgent leaders, the prospects of success of this [illegible] are not very great. Shakir Pasha's departure may not improbably be det[illegible] the maintenance of comparative order in this part of Macedonia.

10. As above stated, Feizi Pasha has been appointed to the chief ma[illegible] in the Yemen and is now *en route* thither; he was noted in the 1892 Yem[illegible] for his policy of brutal repression, and his transfer to the Yemen may militate against the success of the expedition in Central Arabia.

11. It is stated that the Turks propose sending an expedition to Sana viâ Mocha and Taez, but, whether the Turks march on Sana viâ Taez, or viâ Menakha, [illegible] certain that they will encounter considerable opposition.

12. The situation of the Turks in the Yemen is now critical. The dispatch of regular troops from Turkey in Europe to Yemen is being watched by Bulgaria [illegible] Mesopotamia for the Yemen may have serious consequences in these provinces.

13. Finally, should the present Yemen revolt spread to the holy cities of Mecca [illegible] the Sultan of Turkey—a not impossible contingency, for the Imam is a more direct descendant of the Prophet than the Sultan—it is difficult to see how far the wave of fanaticism may not carry him.

General Staff, War Office, May 23, 1905.

No. 58.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Mounsey.

(No. 50.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, May 25, 1905.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith certified copies of an Agreement which I have signed with the French Ambassador at this Court,* providing that the period fixed for the delivery of the Arguments on behalf of the two Governments in the Muscat Arbitration shall be extended to a date to be fixed by the Arbitral Tribunal.

I request that you will forward these papers to the Permanent Bureau for distribution in a similar manner to those inclosed in my despatch to Sir H. Howard, No. 81 of the 20th April last.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 59.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received May 26.)

Sir,

India Office, May 24, 1905.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of Sir K. Gorst's letter of the 15th instant, asking for Mr. Secretary Brodrick's observations on a communication made by the French Ambassador to the Marquess of Lansdowne on the 8th instant relative to Major Cox's attitude in regard to the Muscat Arbitration.

M. Cambon complains that Major Cox told the Sultan that His Highness was to be a party to the arbitration, and suggested to him that he should be separately represented by Counsel. This complaint would appear to be founded on the Sultan's letter of the 19th March last, of which a translation appears in Appendix II of the British Counter-Case.

* Agreement of May 19, 1905.

It will be within Lord Lansdowne's recollection that in July 1903, when the arbitration had in principle been accepted by the French Government, His Majesty's Government considered it desirable to inform the Sultan that the question of the [illegible] His Highness' behalf by the British Government, who would "welcome the assistance of anyone whom the Sultan might depute to furnish in[illegible]" Instructions to this effect were sent to the Government of India on the [illegible], 1903, and Major Cox, in reporting his action upon these instructions, communicated a verbal reply from the Sultan to the same effect as His Highness' letter of the 19th March last above referred to.

In Mr. Villiers' letter of the 14th February last, Lord Lansdowne expressed his intention to give in the British Case documentary evidence of the Sultan's spontaneous decision to commit his interests to His Majesty's Government. The Government of India were accordingly instructed, in a telegram of the 17th February, to send as early as possible all available evidence on this point. The information asked for was furnished in Major Cox's note of the 21st March last, in which he recapitulated the various communications from the Sultan bearing on this point, ending with the letter of the 19th March, and an explanation of the circumstances in which it had been written. This note, on its receipt, was forwarded to the Foreign Office for the purpose of the preparation of the British Counter-Case.

No other communication on the subject can be traced as having passed between Major Cox and the Sultan, nor, so far as Mr. Brodrick is [illegible] suggestion ever been made to His Highness that he should be represented at The Hague by Counsel.

With regard to the refusal of His Highness to accept the French list of protégés, I am to request that you will draw Lord Lansdowne's attention to the telegram from the Viceroy of the 30th March and to Major Grey's letter of the 3rd April last. From those reports it would appear that the Sultan's action in this matter was spontaneous, and that Major Grey was at once instructed by the Government of India that, in case he should be consulted by the Sultan, he should advise His Highness to accept the list without prejudice to the question of the French right to protect the persons named.

In these circumstances, it appears to Mr. Brodrick that in neither of these matters does the action of the Government of India or of their officers justify the imputations of the French Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. GODLEY

No. [illegible]

[illegible] Received [illegible] May

(No. 21. Confi[illegible])

Buzorah, May 6, 1905.

Sir,

WITH reference to my telegram No. 28 of to-day, I have the honour to report that [illegible] Anayza, by Lieutenant-General Sadgo, who is in command of the troops from Medina, dated the 10th (23rd) April, to the Pal[illegible]

After prayers for the Sultan's welfare, he states that the troops attached to the Fifth Army Corps under his command, j[illegible]d the Mushir at Jibb [sic], and then marched by the wells of Deeab [sic] to Kassim. The Sheikhs were summoned separately and received robes of honour and advice. They submitted [illegible] The country being quiet they entered Boreyda, the chief town of Kas[illegible] without incident. The troops were well received. Salih-bin-Mohenna and Abdul Aziz-bin-Suleyman, Sheikhs who had hastened to meet them, were appointed the former, [illegible] Turkish flag was hoisted on the towers of Boreyda, the Hamidieh March played, and the troops drawn up in line cried "Long live our Padishah." Thousan[illegible] listened submissively with folded hands, tears of joy were shed, and a salute was [illegible] The telegram ends with dithyrambic praises of the Sultan and congratulations on this [illegible] clemency, and power of His Imperial Majesty.

I am informed that the Vali received a letter from the Mushir on the same subject on the 4th May. The letter was dated the 10th (23rd) April from Aneyza, and stated that the Imperial troops entered Boreyda on the 2nd (15th) April, and Aneyza on the 3rd (16th) April. The substance is the same as that of the telegram to the Palace referred to above. The Mushir asks the Vali to release the prisoners here belonging to [illegible]

There is no mention of the Amir I[illegible] Reel[illegible]d in either of these communications, but I am led to believe that he was not present at the entry of the troops into Boreyda and Aneyza, and that his abstention from all interference in the affairs of Kassim was made a condition of the peaceful submission of the inh[illegible]

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. E. CROW.

No. 61.

Mr. Mounsey to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 27.)

(No. 98.)

The Hague, May 26, 1905.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that I have this day communicated to the Secretary General of the International Bureau at The Hague the certified copies of the Agreement signed by your Lordship and the French Ambassador at the Court of St. James providing that the period fixed for the delivery of the arguments on behalf of the two Governments in the Muscat Arbitration shall be extended to a date to be fixed by the Arbitral Tribunal.

While adding that I have explained to M. de Ruyssenaers that one copy of the document is intended for each of the two Arbitrators, one for the Umpire, when appointed, and the fourth for the archives of the International Bureau, I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE A. MOUNSEY.

No. 62.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 29.)

(No. 353.)

Constantinople, May 19, 1905.

My L[illegible]

WITH reference to my despatch No. 343 of the 16th [illegible] I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith a despatch from the Military Attaché to His Majesty's Embassy, reporting the mobilization of the Malatia Redif Brigade for service in the [illegible]

I have, &c.
(For the Ambassador)
(Signed) FRANCIS STRONGE.

Inclosure in No. 62.

Lieutenant-Colonel Maunsell to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. [illegible])

Constantinople, May 18, 1905.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report, in continuation of my despatch No. 24 of the 15th May regarding the mobilization of the Kharput Redif Brigade for service in the Yemen, that it has now been decided to mobilize the Malatia Redif Brigade which forms part of the Diarbekir Division, and comprises two regiments—one at Malatia and one at Diarbekir, for service in the same country. This makes sixteen battalions in all, or 11,000 men, ordered to leave from the Kharput and Diarbekir vilayets.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. MAUNSELL,
Military Attaché.

No. 63.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 29.)

My [illegible] *Constantinople, May 20, 1905.*

[illegible] rence to my despatch No. 317 of the 9th instant, I have the hon[illegible] herewith copies of two despatches from Mr. Richardson, His Majesty's V[illegible] Consul at Hodeida reporting on the state of affairs in the Yemen, and giving an account of the capture of Sana'a by the Imam and its evacuation by the Turkish troops and civil authorities.

Mr. Richardson mentions that the Syrian Redifs previously stationed at Menakha have been moved south to Hujjela, and have been replaced by 2,000 fresh Albanian troops and three Turkish battalions transferred from the Anis district.

In an earlier despatch Mr. Richardson reported that the st[illegible] arrived on the 29th ultimo with 1,800 Alb[illegible] "Gharb" disembarked 2,500 more under the command of Lewa Ahmed Feizi Pasha [illegible] the 1st instant, and in the despatch which I now enclose, dated the 4th May, he st[illegible] that in all eight battalions of Albanian troops have been landed at Hodeida, and that it has been decided to station them at M[illegible].

Reports respecting the position of the Turkish garrison at Ibb have been somewhat contradictory, but it has now been ascertained that it has been successfully rescued [illegible]

I [illegible]

(Signed) FRANCIS STRONG.

Inclosure 1 in No. 63.

Vice-Consul Richardson to Consul Deeny.

S[illegible]

Hodeida, April 28, 1905.

[illegible] chanced on the morning of the 25th instant that the gar[illegible] 1[illegible] surrendered to the Imam, and which was evacuated later throughout the [illegible] of the authorities remaining returned on the 27th.

The above report has now been confirmed, and I learn that the cap[illegible] actually fell on the evening of the 20th instant.

It would appear from details that have filtered through to Hodeida that all the troops and Ottoman officials, including the Vali and Commander-in-chief, have been permitted to leave for Hodeida, under a guarantee from the Imam for their safe conduct.

All forts, guns, rifles, ammunition, military stores, transport animals, &c., and all public buildings at Sana'a, however, have been taken over by the Imam under the terms of capitulation.

Foreign and other merchants resident at the capital have been assured that they may continue trading without fear or molestation, and have elected to remain there.

About 2,000 persons, consisting of civil and military officials and their families, have already arrived at Mokha *en route* to Hodeida.

Preparations are being made for the reception and accommodation of the higher [illegible]

It cannot be imagined where the few thousands of officials and military [illegible] will be housed, as Hodeida can barely offer a couple of houses available for [illegible]

The military authorities will experience considerable difficulty about the [illegible] of several thousand troops more. I hear that a camp will most probably be [illegible] at Camaran.

There are rumours that Menakha is about to be evacuated, if such has not been already effected by the insurgents from the north. Though well provisioned and capable of a stout resistance, the place will, in my opinion, fall sooner or later into the hands of the Arabs, owing to the unreliability and mutinous character of the Syrian garrison, many of whom are deserting daily.

Should that not unlikely eventuality occur which I anticipated, it would take the Turks quite six months or even more to recover their position in the Yemen, and only if [illegible] of 50,000 men, well equipped and provisioned, were landed with adequate transport and provided with a sufficiency of funds.

Besides Menakha, the only mountain fastnesses that remain under Turkish occupation are Kuff, in the Hujjur district, which has been besieged for the past three or four months, Ta'iz, and Ibb.

The 2,000 Albanian troops that have arrived for service are at present quartered at Hujjela.

Two battalions of the above, while proceeding to Menakha, were attacked by Arabs, and after suffering some loss succeeded in driving off the rebels, and then returned to Hujjela.

I have &c.

(Signed) G. A. RICHARDSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 63.

Vice-Consul Richardson to Consul Deeny.

(No. 53.)

Hodeida, May 4, 1905.

Sir,

SINCE the fall of Sana'a, reported in my despatch No. 50 of the 28th ultimo, which fact has since been officially confirmed, no news of importance has reached this Vice-Consulate.

According to information received here, it would appear that the Imam has allowed the Turks a period of fifteen days in which to vacate the cap[illegible]

Some difficulty was at first experienced in obtaining transport for the large number of officials, troops, and their families, but this has now been solved by the Local Government remitting 5,000*l.* to the Imam, who has consented to supply the necessary transport animals.

Two caravans have so far reached Menakha, the first consisting of some 3,500 soldiers under General Izzet Pasha, who was erroneously reported as being killed some time ago; and the second of civil and military officers, women, and children, numbering about 2,000 in all. Two other caravans will start from Sana'a in the course of the next few days, the Vali and other high officials arriving by the last.

The Mutessarif of Hodeida, who for some obscure reason, unaccountable even to the Adjunct Vali himself, who accompanied Riza Pasha's force to Sana'a, and has absented himself from his post during the past three months, when his presence at Hodeida was indispensably necessary, returned to Menakha a week ago.

All is quiet at present in the neighbourhood of the latter place.

The Syrian Redifs garrisoning Menakha have been moved south to Hujjela, and their place taken by the 2,000 Albanian soldiers recently arrived and three old battalions of Turkish troops that were formerly in the Anis district.

Up to date, eight battalions of Albanian troops have landed at Hodeida, and it has been decided to station these at Menak[illegible]

The Commander-in-chief of all troops in Yemen, Riza Pasha, who has only held that post since March, has been superseded, and Marshal Ahmed Fezi Pasha been [illegible] Sana'a and restore order in Yemen [illegible] here near Medina, having just successfully concluded an expedition [illegible]

Marshal Ahmed Fezi Pasha, who has completed the greater part of his service this province, came here in 1873 as a Captain, and attained the rank of Major-General [illegible] 1887.

He commanded the force that was dispatched to the Yemen in 1892 to relieve Sana'a and retake the various towns captured during the last Arab rebellion headed by the late Imam during that year.

He subsequently held for a period of seven years the dual position of Gove[illegible] General of the Yemen and Commander-in-chief of the 7th Army Corps, of which he was relieved in 1898.

The new Commander-in-chief is expected at Hodeida from Yembo within the course of the next fortnight.

I learn that Lewa Riza Pasha and the Mutessarif of Ta'iz with a force of 1,000 men are besieged at Ibb, for the relief of which place they were advancing; but the news has been contradicted.

Mahmud Bey informed me a few days ago that he had received information that Ibb had been successfully relieved, and that Brigadier-General Riza Pasha was clearing the road between that place and Kattaba.

A Civil and a Military Commission, each consisting of four high officials of [illegible] respective branches are shortly expected at Hodeida.

The former will inquire into the causes of the present rebellion, and will [illegible] and draft reforms for the better government of this province.

The Military Commission is constituted for the purpose of inquiring [illegible] conduct of several battalions of Syrian Redifs, and also [illegible] officers and men in connection with the surrender of the [illegible] towns in the Yemen.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. A. RICHARDSON.

No. 61.

[illegible] India Office [illegible]

[illegible]
Secretary of State [illegible]
forwards herewith, for the information [illegible]
from the Resident at Aden, dated the 28th [illegible]

India Office, May 29, 1905.

Inclosure in No. 61.

Resident, Aden, to Government of India.

(Telegram.)

REPORT has been received from Political [illegible] in view of the strong position held by the Turks at Menakha, it now [illegible] ha will be attacked, as had been anticipated.

([illegible] Secretary of State for India, and Political Department, Bombay.)

Mr. Mounsey to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 30.)

(No. 102.)

My Lord, *The Hague, May 29.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 70 of the 25th instant, I have the honour transmit herewith a copy of a note which I have received from M. de Ruyssenaers:

1. Of the Agreement signed by the Government of Great Britain and France providing that the period fixed for the delivery of the Arguments of the two Governments in the Muscat Arbitration shall be extended to a date to be fixed by the Arbitral Tribunal.

2. Of the nomination by the Governments of Great Britain and France respectively of Mr. Melville W. Fuller and Jonkheer de Savornin Lohman as members of the Tribunal, and

3. Of the nomination by the King of Italy of M. Henri Lammasch as Umpire.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE A. MOUNSEY.

Inclosure in No. 65.

M. de Ruyssenaers to Mr. Mounsey.

La Haye, le 27 Mai, 1905.

LES Ministres de France et de Grande-Bretagne accrédités auprès de Sa Majesté [illegible] des Pays-Bas ont bien voulu, en exécution de l'Article XXII de la [illegible] pour le règlement pacifique des conflits internationaux du 29 Juillet, [illegible] la Cour Permanente d'Arbitrage des [illegible] nes d'un Compromis Arbitral, signé à Londres le 13 Octobre, [illegible] ublique Française d'une part et la Grande-Bretagne d'autre part, [illegible] Tribunal d'Arbitrage appelé à statuer sur un différend entre ces deux [illegible] ujet des limites de Mascate.

[illegible] Parties Contractantes de leurs [illegible] la suite d'un Ar[illegible] Arbitral ce délai a été [illegible] revrier dernier. En conséquence, le terme de trois mois pour la [illegible] Mémoires a été fixé au 1er Mai 1905.

[illegible] à La Haye a [illegible] fixer par le Tribunal [illegible] ments de la République Française et de Sa Majesté Britannique [illegible]

[illegible] Jonkheer de Savornin Lohman, Docteur en droit, ancien Ministre de [illegible] Pays-Bas, ancien Professeur à l'Université libre d'Amsterdam, M[illegible] Chambre des États-Généraux, Membre de la Cour Perma[illegible]

[illegible] ville W. Fuller, Président ("Chief Justice") de la Cour Suprême aux [illegible] Amérique, Membre de la Cour Permanente d'Arbitrage,

[illegible] Sa Majesté le Roi d'Italie a nommé comme Surarbitre [illegible] Lammasch, Docteur en droit, Membre de la Chambre des Seigneurs du Parlement Autrichien, Membre de la Cour Permanente d'Ar[illegible]

(Signé) L. H. RUYSSENAERS,
Envoyé Extraordinaire et Ministre Plénipotentiaire,
Secrétaire-Général de la Cour Permanente d'Arbitrage.

No. 66.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received May 31.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compl[illegible] Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of St[illegible] a letter from the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, dated the 4th May, relative to the desire of the French Consul at Muscat to borrow the Sultan's steamer for his journey to Sur.

India Office, May 30, 1905.

Inclosure 1 in No. 66.

Major Grey to Government of India.

(Telegram.) P. *Muscat, April 28, 1905.*

PLEASE refer to my letter, dated the 3rd instant.

The French Consul wishes to borrow His Highness the Sultan's steamer for his [illegible] Should His Highness lend or refuse it? If he did lend it, the [illegible] case it was a proof of [illegible] not also in the object for which it is taken [illegible] Government of India, and repeated Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

Inclosure 2 in N[illegible]

[illegible] Cox to Government of India

(Telegraphic.) P. *Bushire, April 28, 1*[illegible]

I FULLY indorse the views expressed in Grey's telegram to you of t[illegible] date. If no other excuse handy, surely Sultan has ample grounds for frankly stating his compliance would be misinterpreted, and this certainly would be the case to a most prejudicial extent.

Inclosure 3 in No. 66.

Government of India to Major Grey.

(Telegraphic.) P. *Simla, May 2, 1905.*

PLEASE refer to your telegram dated the 28th April last.

If you are consulted by the Sultan you may advise His Highness to frankly tell the French Consul that, pending The Hague decision, he would prefer to lend the steamer neither to the French nor the English Consul in case such action may be misinterpreted in favour of either party.

(Repeated to Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.)

No. 67.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received June 2.)

Sir, *India Office, May 31, 1905.*

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Brodrick to acknowledge Sir E. Grey's letter of [illegible] instant on the subject of the Turkish military post on Bubyan Island.

[illegible] ply, I am to say that Mr. Brodrick concurs in Lord Lansdowne's views that [illegible] be treated separately from that of the maintenance of a Brit[illegible] [illegible] ty's Government must reserve absolutely the righ[illegible]

With [illegible] Government, M[illegible] discretion. Captain Knox, as Lord Lansdowne has been informed in my letter of [illegible] 24th instant, has been obliged to leave Koweit owing to ill-health, and will be unable to return for some time.

Mr. Brodrick will address the Government [illegible] which it will be necessary to afford the Sheikh [illegible] post on Bubyan Island, and will communicate their views upon receipt [illegible]

I am, &c.

(Signed) [illegible]

No. 68.

Sir A. Hardinge to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 5.)

(No. 107.)

My Lord, *Tehran, May 17, 1*[illegible]

THE "Habl-ul-Matin," a Calcutta paper published in Persian, which has a large circulation in this country, has lately published a most mendacious and malicious account of the recent action of His Majesty's Residency in the Persian Gulf and of the Government of India in Bahrein, representing it as a high-handed abuse of force [illegible] strong Power against a weak one, stating that the troops were landed at Menamah [illegible] sacked the city, and foreshadowing a policy of violence by Great Br[illegible] the States on the shores of the Persian Gulf now that Russia's attent[illegible] the Far East.

As I learnt that this article, palpably false as were the statements contained i[illegible] had produced a certain impression in Persian circles here, I authorized Mr. Chure[illegible] to give a correct account of recent incidents in Bahrein to the editor of the newspaper "Terbiet," one of the most respectable organs of the native press in Tehran, with which His Majesty's Legation is in relations, and which we at rare intervals inspire. As one of the main objects of Major Cox's proceedings was the protection of Persian subjects in Bahrein against Arab and Sunni violence, and as they were taken with the full approval, and to some extent at the wish, of the Persian Government, it appeared to me very desirable that the true facts should be generally known here. I have the honour to inclose herewith a translation of the article which the "Terbiet" has just published on the subject, and which will, I trust, have a good effect.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR H. HARDINGE.

Inclosure in No. 68.

Extract from the "Terbiet" of May 18, 1905.

(Translation.)

Bahrein.—Certain rumours have been spread lately in Tehran respecting the islands of Bahrein in the Persian Gulf, and it was reported that the Arab Sunnis had maltreated the Shiahs, while British soldiers had committed acts of violence, and this report has, of course, grieved our friends, who, not knowing where to seek for information on the subject, applied to us. We, on our side, made inquiries of one of the members of the British Legation in this capital, who made a statement to us, which we now publish. We must add, however, that our object in giving publicity to this account is not only dictated by our desire to place the true facts before our readers, but also to point a lesson, as we think that an opportunity for reflection is offered on this occasion, and our object is not only to give you news, but to make you think.

The statement of our friends in the British Legation runs as follows:

"The islands of Bahrein, in the Persian Gulf, have, as you know, been at different [illegible] the suzerainty of the Turkish and Persian Empires, but are now ruled by a [illegible] is independent of both these States.

"Sheikh Isa-bin Khalifeh, the present Ruler of the islands, is in Treaty relations with the Government of India, which, during the last 100 years, has maintained peace and order in his waters by means of British gun boats, which constantly patrol the Gulf, and he looks to that Government to protect his interests against the aggression of other Powers.

"The Government of India is therefore interested in the maintenan[illegible] of peace in the Sheikh's islands, and it was with regret that it heard of the unfortunate [illegible] which lately occurred there to disturb that peace, and found itself obliged to interfere in order to restore order.

"Sheikh Ali-bin-Ahmed, a nephew of the ruling Sheikh Isa, had for some time past rendered himself most objectionable to the peaceful inhabitants of the islands by his turbulent behaviour, and has, in fact, at one time incurred the displeasure of his uncle Sheikh Isa, who complained of him to the Government of India.

"This unruly person's first grave offence was an attack upon a German merchant, who was seriously assaulted by Sheikh Ali's men. Not long after, one of Sheikh Ali's servants assaulted a Persian subject, and subsequently an attack was made on the family of Haji Abdul Nabbi Kaserooni, with the result that two respectable Persians, the father, aged 80, and the brother of Abdul Nabbi, were more or less seriously wounded.

"These disturbances called for serious measures, and the Persians who were the object of the attack telegraphed to his Excellency the Mushir-ed-Dowleh, asking for support. His Excellency, after consulting the British Representative, replied, assuring them that justice would be done to them, and advising them to be patient. In the meantime, the British Resident, who proceeded to Bahrein from his head-quarters at Bushire after satisfying himself that the Arabs were the aggressors and that the Persians had [illegible]

islands of Sheikh Ali, the principal culprit, (2) the imprisonment or flogging of the [illegible]

Persians of 2,000 rupees as compensation [illegible] on them. The Sheikh, however, objected to these demand [illegible] matter [illegible] Ecclesiastical Court for settlement by the 'Olema [illegible] that the Shiah Persians objected to a case between them an[illegible] attacks of the latter upon them as Shiahs had been approved by [illegible] being referred to these Mollahs, as they did not expect ju[illegible] ne to their cause [illegible] Sheikh, however, remained obdurate and the Resident found himsel[illegible] liged to telegraph to the Government of India, which sent a ship of war to [illegible] his demands. On the appearance of the ship Sheikh Ali fled secretly from Bahrein whither he will not be permitted to return; and Sheikh Isa, [illegible] that further resis[illegible]e was useless, consented to the punishment of the Arabs and the payment of [illegible]pensation to the Persians. The story of the British troops having [illegible]ked th[illegible] town is an obvious [illegible]

[illegible]his is the account supplied to us by the British Leg[illegible]ion and we will make further [illegible] other quarters, and if any furthe[illegible] [illegible]ets us on the subject [illegible] will publish it.

Sir N. O'Conor to the M[illegible]

(No. 306.)

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. [illegible] forwarded to your Lordship herewith [illegible] Damascus, reporting the return of L[illegible] court-martial established in the Yemen [illegible]

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 60

Consul Richards to Sir N. O'Conor

(No. 27.)

Damas[illegible], May 17, 1905.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 24 of the 3r[illegible] [illegible] that Lieutenant-General Kvamil Pasha [illegible] [illegible]ps, who, as reported in the despatch under reference [illegible] pres[illegible] the court-martial which was to be held in that pr[illegible] the 15th instant from Port Said on the plea of [illegible] I understand that his colleague, Major-General Ali Mansour Pasha, from Al[illegible] will [illegible] him in the Presidency, assisted by Shoura Bey and Rashdi Bey. [illegible] have pro[illegible] to the Yemen.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. S. RICHARDS.

No. 70

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 5.)

(No. 369.)

Constantinople, [illegible]

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 343 of the [illegible]th [illegible] [illegible]ents of Turkish troops [illegible] Majesty's Vice-Consul at Scutari [illegible] and the other from Durazzo, have left th[illegible]

[illegible] [illegible]ner started on [illegible] [illegible] troops embarked in [illegible]

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 71

The Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received Jun[illegible]

(No. [illegible])

The Hague, June 3, 19[illegible]5

My [illegible]

[illegible]ch ultimo, I have the honour to [illegible] Excellency, inf[illegible]ming me that Moscat Olivas Arbitration, has [illegible]ing of the Tribunal at The Hague, and [illegible] delivered on the 10th July next.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE A. MOUNSEY.

Inclosure in No. 71

La Haye, le 2 Juin, 1905.

M. le Chargé d'Affaires,

D'APRÈS les instructions de M. [illegible]sch, Président du Tribunal Arbitral, constitué en vertu du Compromis signé à L[illegible]dres le 14 Octobre, 1904, afin de statuer le différend existant entre la Grande-Bretagne et la France au sujet des douanes de Mascate, j'ai l'honneur de porter à vot[illegible] [illegible]le du Tribunal se réunira à La Haye le 25 Juillet prochain.

En même temps je suis chargé de vous informer [illegible] le Tribunal a fixé le 10 Juillet [illegible] des Arguments visés aux Articles 2 et 3 [illegible] Compromis Arbitral [illegible]

[illegible] obligé, M. le Chargé d'Affaires, de vouloir faire part de [illegible] Gouvernement, et je saisis, &c.

(Signé) L. H. RUYSSENAERS,

Envoyé Extraordinaire.

No. 72

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Recei[illegible])

[illegible] Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-[illegible] [illegible] Bredrick [illegible] forwards herewith, for the information [illegible] of State, copy of a letter from the Political Resident, Aden, of the 7th May, and inclosures, relative to the Aden demarcation.

It is requested that these documents, which are sent in original, may be returned to this Office as soon as done with.

India Office, June 7, 1905.

Inclosure in No. 72

[illegible]neral Mason to India Office.

Aden Residency, May 7, 1905.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith copy of Mr. Fitzmaurice's despatch dated Perim, the 30th April last, on the Subaihi border and the north-east frontier,

addressed to the Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, together with a copy of my forwarding letter dated the 7th instant.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. M. MASON, *Major General,*
Political Resident, Aden.

Inclosure 2 in No. 72.

Major-General Mason to Government of India.

Sir, *Aden Residency, May 7, 1905.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Report by Mr. Fitzmaurice of the 30th April on the Subaihi border and north-east.

With regard to his remarks on Beda, paragraphs 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, and 21, I beg to point out that I have been and am now taking steps to induce the Chief of that tribe to enter into the Treaty sanctioned by Government.

I understand one of the main obstacles in the past has been the local jealousies [illegible] Beda Chief and minor Sheikhs, which I trust however to be able to [illegible] without hope that within a reasonable time that the Treaty in question will be concluded, unless perhaps the present troubles in Yemen should have a disturbing effect on the British side of the border. A fuller report on the subject will follow by next mail.

3. The settlement of the south-west border (Subaihi) appears to me to be satisfactory, whilst it has also been a great advantage to have the north-east line put in principle on a more definite basis.

By the wording of the *procès-verbal* Mr. Fitzmaurice has not expressly recognised Juban as Turkish, and to a certain extent this would seem to leave the matter open should the claims of Yafa' and the general circumstances of the case, in the event of any future demarcation of the north-east boundary, render it expedient to insist on its Yafa' connection.

I would also venture to point out that the words "at the moment of demarcation" in the *procès-verbal*, would appear to be a certain limitation on our cession of the Subaihi territory between the boundary actually delimited and the Akama-Kudam line.

4. In forwarding the last Boundary Commission Report by Mr. Fitzmaurice, I beg to place on record my appreciation of the good work he has done in connection with the boundary. Apart from his actual services in connection with demarcation, I have always found him ready to help me with his advice and experience in many matters which I have consulted him on, and that his assistance as the result of his long experience in the hinterland has been of much value to me.

(Signed) H. M. MASON, *Major-General,*
Political Resident, Aden.

Inclosure 3 in No. 72.

Mr. Fitzmaurice to Government of India.

Sir, *Perim, April 30, 190[illegible]*

IN accordance with the Government of India's instructions, conveyed to me in the British Ambassador's telegram of the 18th instant, I have, as reported in my telegram of the 20th instant, settled with the Turkish Commissioner the outstanding portion of some 60 miles of the south-west frontier of the Subehi, as also the questions expressly included in the recent negotiations with the Turks respecting the north-east boundary-line to the desert. I forward herewith the maps (½-inch to the mile, general map, and 1/[illegible] large scale map of the Sheikh Said Peninsula) with the boundary line marked thereon, as also a detailed description of this section of the frontier, all duly signed by Colonel Mustapha Remzi, the Ottoman Commissioner. This brings up the total extent of boundary actually delimited with the Turks to about 200 miles from point I on the Wadi Bana to Husn Murad at Sheikh Said.

I further inclose the signed *procès-verbal* in French (with a translation in English) of the last official meeting of the Joint Commission. In it will be found

mentioned the arrangement communicated by the Sublime Porte in a *note verbale*, dated the 14th March last, to His Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople concerning the undertaking given by the Ottoman Government not to alienate to a third Power the Subehi territory lying between the line actually delimited from J. Numan to Husn Murad and the line of the old Subehi border from J. 'Akama through J. 'Akkar to Kudam on the shore of the Red Sea.

3. The wording of the Porte's note [illegible] from [illegible] to which the arrangement refers. [illegible] 4th April to the Government of India, Foreign Department.)

4. The tenour of the official telegram on the subject from the Ottoman Minister of War to the Turkish Commissioner, dated the 19th March, 1905, was as follows:—

"The British Government has wished to impose a condition that the Imperial Government shall never cede to a third Power the territory situated between the [illegible] Kudam line and the second line terminating at Husn Murad, which you are hereby instructed to delimit. Such a condition could not be deemed worthy of discussion even, but the Ottoman Ambassador in London has made a communication concerning the territory adjoining the Husn Murad line which the British Foreign Minister has accepted as a sufficient pledge on the subject."

When urged to insert in the *procès-verbal* the words "Akama and Kudam," as the northern limits of the territory in question, the Turkish Commissioner demurred. [illegible] "the territory adjoining the Murad line," and that the reference might ev[illegible] to the territory to the south of that line. He subsequently agreed to the wording, "adjoining and to the north of the Numan Murad line."

With regard to the section of the Subehi border from J. Numan to Husn [illegible] the accompanying maps, it may be remarked that the [illegible] reaching the sea in the vicinity of Turba, while it was found that the Turks locally laid claim to all the territory east of Sheikh Said up to the line of J. Am Musas, J. Kharaz, and Ras Aran.

6. Subsequently, investigations showed that the western borders of the Juléa, Burém, and Atifi sections of the Subehi extended respectively to the points, 'Akama, 'Akkar, and Kudam, and although these extreme limits have not been insisted on the boundary actually delimited from J. Numan to Husn Murad still vindicates the Subehi claims, as against Turkish pretensions, to the extent of some hundreds of square miles. The Turks had in the past unobtrusively exercised jurisdiction up to the line of J. Am Musas and J. Kharaz the Subehi tribal subsections of Mudarba, Aghbari, Kalah, Mahwah, and Jartinti having actually paid taxes to the Ottoman [illegible] at Mokha.

7. The Turkish Commissioners at first insisted strongly on their claim to the Aghbari, mainly on account of the religious importance attached by their authorities to the well-known shrine of Turba Abu-el-Esrar, situated within Aghbari limits; and it was only in the course of the Ottoman Commissioner's recent prolonged stay at Sheikh Said that the claim was relinquished. The result was to yield a natural boundary, which, from J. Numan, almost entirely follows the watershed between the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden, is easily distinguishable, and has the further merit of being the recognized border between the tribal subsections inhabiting the country through which it passes.

Despite the general barren character of the country this section of the frontier has also the advantage that it can be easily visited by large or small parties, as sufficient water for a camp of from 300 to 400 men is to be found at short stages or watches along its entire extent. At Mijza there is abundant flowing water, and similarly at Mudarba, some 8 miles to the west of Mijza. The wells at Turba Ab[illegible] [illegible] ater, and [illegible]

9. The Memoranda forwarded with the Commission's letters of the 4th June, 1904, and the 8th June, 1904, contain the information obtainable from native sources as to French and Turkish past dealings at Sheikh Said, and their bearing on Subehi rights to the place. The Hakem Sheikh Thabit Am Duren was the ind [illegible] the French dealt, while Sheikh Mohammad Ali Fattahi was conti [illegible] by both French and Turks, as appears from his evidence give [illegible] above referred to. Both Sheikhs, who were very advanced in years, died early in last February, two interesting links with the past history of Sheikh Said being thus removed.

10. In accordance with the instructions contained in the Secretary of State for India's telegram of the 18th April to the Government of India, two masonry pillars [illegible] cement 3 feet at the base and 5 feet high) have been built under the supervis[illegible] of Lieutenant H. J. Couchman, R.E., at the points LXXI and LXXII in the [illegible] of Sheikh Said, while the Turkish Commissioner has had a cairn of rough stone, [illegible] metres in height, erected at the point LXX[illegible].

11. The *procès-verbal* records the delimitation of the north-east boundary line [illegible] Lakamat-ash-Shub to the desert agreed upon with the Turkish Commissioner as also [illegible] and tribes definitely recognized as on the British side of such a line. By the Sultan's Irade of February 1903 the Turkish Commissioners were instructed "to delimit in a north-easterly direction from Lakamat-ash-Shub towards the desert," but, as shown in paragraph 4 of the Commission's letter of the 1st October, 1903, they then considered that they had carried out their instructions to demarcate in a north-easterly direction when they had delineated to point 1 on the W. Bana. The specific admission that Rubeiaten, Na'wa, and Dabani belong to Yafa' now definitely carries the line some 20 miles further in the north-easterly direction.

12. As may be noticed from the wording of the *procès-verbal*, I have not expressly surrendered Yafa's rights to Juban, but have merely omitted all mention of their claim to the place, although the Ottoman Commissioner's admission that Rubeiaten, Na'wa, and Dabani belong to Yafa' is conditional on Juban remaining part of the Kaza of Bana.

I may point out that the basis of demarcation accepted by both Governments was the status of 1901, and that at that time all four places were considered as Turkish, while the Aden Residency records of 1894 mentioned Rubeiaten, Na'wa, and Juban being within Turkish limits. Thus, in obtaining the recognition by the Turks that Rubeiaten, Na'wa, and Dabani are Yafa', we are obtaining more than the status of 1901 warranted. According to the documents enclosed in the Commission's letter of the 26th October, 1903, Rubeiaten is so indisputably Yafa' that it could not have been left to the Turks without a loss of prestige to our tribesmen, but the Yafa' connection with the other places in question is much weaker.

13. The words in the *procès-verbal* "as also all other Yafa' districts lying south and east of the aforesaid north-east line" are intended to cover the appearance of the Yafa' Sultan Hadjeri Mohammed of Mulaiba, and also Abl Said-al-Maserik, a small nomad tribal section related to Dabani, should the Turks, at the moment of demarcation, desire to dispute their Yafa'.

14. The statement of the Ottoman Commissioner quoted in the *procès-verbal* that the basis of the northernmost demarcation is in general the north 45° east line [illegible] Line from Lakamat-ash-Shub up to the desert, entitles us to consider, at [illegible] all tribes to the south and east of the true north-east line as within the [illegible].

The specific admission that the Aulaki with all its sub-divisions and dependencies are one of the "nine cantons" completes the list of the nine tribes which the Porte since 1873 was supposed to have recognized as British. The late document telegram of the 20th December, 1888, states that the Aulaki Sultan claims suzerainty over Beihan-al-Kasab. If this is so, in fact, the district is a dependency of the Aulaki. I believe, moreover, a Treaty was concluded early in 1904 with Sharif Ahmad Mohsin of Beihan-al-Kasab.

16. The recent demarcation was proposed by the Sultan of Turkey on the basis [illegible]. Beda was not one of these, it became imperative *nunc-ris* the Turkish Government, as repeatedly pointed out by the Commission, to enter into Treaty engage[illegible] Beda as early as possible, and notify the same to the Porte so as to bring [illegible] the scope of His Majesty's Government's declaration in 1873 that it reserved the right to make fresh Treaties with the tribes. The hitch in concluding a Treaty with Beda (*vide* Resident's telegram to Foreign Representative, Simla, of the 12th May,

[illegible] its consequent omission from the notification to the Porte of the 11th [illegible], 1904, made it, with its dependencies, the one serious gap in the north-eastern [illegible].

17. Were a joint Anglo-Turk[illegible] [illegible] of Dabani, the Turkish Commissioners would [illegible] sphere, and a prolonged delay would occur before precise orders [illegible] could be obtained and reach them from Constantinople. It is true [illegible] in the *procès-verbal*, "in general the N. 45° E. line up to the d[illegible] Beda, &c., are on the British side of the line, but a Turkish Comm[illegible] [illegible] nevertheless, probably maintain that Beda and its dependencies [illegible] Turkish [illegible] [illegible] tracted stay [illegible] country, a barren tract, where commu[illegible] are execrable and transport dif[illegible]. It is very good would be most costly if [illegible] undertakes the north-east demarcation, the Turkish Government should be [illegible]

[illegible] deal with Beda [illegible] [illegible] ment, or notifying the original line to be [illegible] the right to enter in [illegible] such arrangements has been contested [illegible] ed, perhaps also Beihan al Kasab, which lie mainly to the south of the true north-eastern line from Lakamat-ash-Shub up to the desert, now agreed to as the basis of the north-eastern demarcation, and consequently fall within the limits of the [illegible]

[illegible] when in 1870-73, the Turks have only once pene[illegible] small town of Beda being their starting point [illegible] tribes report a Turkish movement into the Gelamani or Malgani outlying dependencies of Beda, we should, I think, even before the conclusion of a Treaty with Beda, be entitled to protect, on the ground that these places are mainly south of the true north-eastern line to the desert, now recognized by the Turks as in principle the boundary line in those regions.

[illegible] Turkish Commissioner at Sheikh Said being personally most anxious for [illegible] not to insist [illegible] [illegible] No. 9 of this 21[illegible] [illegible] out that "as [illegible] posed in the Impe[illegible] Turkish date) [illegible] [illegible] in view of the statements [illegible] 2nd March there was reason to hesitate about the status of Aulaki as one of the nine cantons." I give these details, as a reference to them may be useful, should Beda and Beihan ever become the subject of discussion with the Sublime Porte.

With the somewhat important exception of Beda, the Turkish Commis[illegible] accepted substantially the desiderata set forth in the Government of India's [illegible] of the 14th July, 1904, to the Secretary of State for India. I may also [illegible] that in the case of all four of the nine tribes whose borders have come under the delimitation (*i.e.*, the Yafa', Amiri, Haushabi, and Subehi), considerably more has been obtained than had been expected previous to demarcation. The accepted basis of the latter being the tribal borders according to the status of 1901, the frontier laid down is, in places, not a natural one. This applies, perhaps, especially to the section of the Haushabi border which crosses the Addarega Valley between Basesa and Ras Nawa, instead of following the natural line of the crest of Jabal-am-Amma and [illegible] Jabian down to Jalisa *vide* paragraphs 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11 of the Commission's [illegible] 19 of the 15th March, 1904.

20. I understand projects are under consideration for the construction of a light railway from Aden up the [illegible] where in the vicinity of Addarega, and it was with a view to the possibility of a [illegible] in that neighbourhood that the Boundary Commission endeavoured, with success, to arrange that the principal water supplies to the south of Jabal-am-Amma should be left on the British side of the line. Should these railway projects

be realized, the trade of the fertile districts near Taiz and Ibb would be tapped and there would certainly be an increase of traffic and business in and around Mavia, with a corresponding increase of Turkish Customs "activity" in the valley north of Addareja. In such an eventuality the necessity for a ratification of the boundary to the crest of Jabal-am-Amma, &c., would probably be more seriously felt than at [illegible].

24. Though the status of 1901 precluded the possibility of taking the boundary along the natural line of the crests of the hills at the time of demarcation, the Arabic documents attached to the Boundary Commission's No. 19 of the 15th March, 1904 show that tribally the Haushabi Sultan might be entitled to claim the Am Amma Jarban-Jalisa line, a rectification that would be more acceptable to the Waj[illegible] villagers now that the Haushabi Sultan Ali Mana has replaced the lately [illegible] Mohsin, and the latter's harsh rule has given place to the more conciliatory methods of his successor.

25. Copies of all doc[illegible] also been forwarded, as [illegible] Department, the Government of Bombay, the Secretary of S[illegible] Majesty's Ambassador, Constantinople. The maps and description of boundary sent to the Government of India will, I presume, be forwarded to the Surveyor-General of India with a view to the completion of the final boundary maps required for ratification at Constantinople.

26. With reference to the large scale map of Sheikh Said, the boundary between Jabal Kawah and Husn Murad had, according to my instructions, to be drawn so as [illegible] distance inland from the actual shore line, while leaving the village [illegible] Turkish side. In the original survey the coast line was slightly inaccurate, and the alteration shown on the map is by Captain Bond, R.T.

27. I have handed over the archives of the Boundary Commission to the Political [illegible] They contain such a large number of documents referring to other than purely boundary matters, that I have thought it useful for future reference to subjoin a list of the principal documents having a direct bearing on the different sections of the frontier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. H. FITZMAURICE

Inclosure 4 in No. 7

Documents in the Records of the Aden Boundary Commission having direct bearing on the different sections of the frontier

[illegible]	Subject of Document.	No. and Date of Document
Amm[illegible]	Extent of, and merits of, Amm[illegible] claims	No. 271 of May 24, 19[illegible]
Ad[illegible] (with part of Haushabi)	Settlement of, with map (scale [illegible]) and [illegible]	No. 18 of March 15, 19[illegible]
Haushabi	Me[illegible] and settlement agreed on	No. 19 of March 15, 19[illegible]
Haushabi and Subehi to Ras [illegible]	Settlement with Sultan [illegible]	No. 46 of June 11, 1901
Subehi	Respective claims of Turks and Subehi	No. 21 of M[illegible]
Subehi (eastern portion)	Do. do.	No. 31 of A[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	Sheikh Said, Kuban, &c.	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible] Inclosures	Inclosures [illegible] document concerning	No. 340 of October 26, 19[illegible]
[illegible]	Settlement to W. Bana, with map and descrip-	No. 337 of October 29, 19[illegible]

Inclosure 5 in No. 7

Procès-verbal of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Commission for the Delimitation of the Boundary of the Nine Cantons, held at Turba (Sheikh Said) on April 20, 1905.

[illegible]

Pour la Turquie—
Moustapha Remzi Bey, Colonel d'État-Major, Commissaire Ottoman.
Pour la Grande-Bretagne
Mr. G. H. Fitzmaurice, Commissaire Britannique.

APRÈS discussion des détails de la frontière des Soubéha de Barh-am-Ashara (Khourj), marquée LXV et 69 sur la carte, et examen des documents et autres preuves s'y référant, Mr. Fitzmaurice, Commissaire Britannique, déclare que, bien que ces documents et preuves, ainsi que le témoignage des habitants qu'on a interro[illegible] l'année dernière sur les lieux, aient démontré que la frontière occidentale des Soub[illegible] s'étend jusqu'à 'Akama et de là passe par 'Akkar pour gagner l'endroit appelé Koudam le Gouvernement Britannique, animé d'un esprit de conciliation et de ses sentiments traditionnels d'amitié envers le Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman, ne l'a pas jug[illegible] opportun, lors du travail de délimitation, d'insister sur le maintien effectif d[illegible] [illegible]é par eux jusqu'à [illegible] a approuvé la proposition de ses Commissaires de délimiter sur la base d'une ligne qui, partant de Barh-am-'Ashara (LXV), atteint, à une distance de 25 kilom. au nord-ouest de Barh-[illegible] de Djebel Nouman, se trouvant sur la ligne de partage des eaux entre la Mer Rouge et le Golfe d'Aden, à la condition, toutefois, q[illegible] Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman s'engage à ne jamais aliéner à une tierce Pui[illegible] le territoire situé entre cette dernière ligne et la ligne sus-mentionnée d'Akama, 'Akkar, et Koudam; qu'à la suite de pourparlers entre les deux Gouverne[illegible] amis, l'Ambassade Britannique à Constantinople vient de lui faire savoir que des instructions dans le sens sus-indiqué ont été envoyées par la Sublime Porte au Commissaire Ottoman.

M. le Colonel Moustapha Remzi Bey déclare qu'en effet il a reçu, en date du 6 (19) Mars, par l'entremise du Ministère Impérial de la Guerre, des instructions basées sur un Iradé Impérial de Sa Majesté le Sultan l'ordonnant de délimiter la frontière du canton des Soubéha par une ligne aboutissant à Husn Mourad et que d'après les instructions lui parvenues, la Sublime Porte s'engage à ne jamais aliéner à une tierce Puissance le territoire contigu à la ligne Nouman–Husn Mourad et situé au nord de cette ligne.

Là-dessus les deux Commissaires rédigent une description détaillée de la section de la ligne de frontière qui, partant de Barh-am-'Ashara (LXV), aboutit à Husn Mourad, et tracent la ligne sur les cartes qu'ils signent et échangent.

Quant à la partie de la frontière au nord-est du point marqué No. 1 sur le Ouadi Bana, c'est-à-dire la ligne qui, selon l'Iradé Impérial du 30 Janvier, 1318, v.s. (12 Février, 1903, n.s.), part de Lékemét-ul-Choub et se dirige dans la direction nord-est [illegible] qu'au désert, Mr. Fitzmaurice, Commissaire Britannique, déclare qu'une partie de cette ligne, à savoir, la frontière entre Mareés et Choueib, ayant déjà été délimitée, il reste à fixer une base pour la prolongation de cette ligne jusqu'au désert, qu'en vertu de l'Iradé Impérial précité, cette partie de la démarcation doit suivre, en général, la ligne droite de Lékemét-ul-Choub nord-est jusqu'au désert, sauf toujours les déviations exigées par la nature du terrain; et que les documents et autres preuves fournis par les Cheikhs des Yafa' démontrent incontestablement que les endroits appelés Roubéatein, Na'wa, et Dhabani forment partie du canton des Yafa', tandis que les Aulaki (pluriel, Awâlik), avec toutes leurs sous-divisions et dépendances, ainsi que tout autre district de Yafa' se trouvant au sud et à l'est de la susdite ligne nord-est appartiennent aux "neuf cantons."

M. le Colonel Moustapha Remzi Bey, Commissaire Ottoman, répond que, selon les instructions reçues de son Gouvernement, il reconnaît que la base de la démarcation [illegible] 1 sur le Ouadi Bana, en vertu de l'Iradé Impérial du 30 Janvier, 1318 (v.s.) [illegible]rier, 1903 (n.s.), est en général la ligne N. 45° E. de Lékemét-ul-Choub jusqu'au désert, qu'à la condition que l'oulé de Djouban reste du côté du Caza de Rida il reconnaît que les oulés de Roubéatein, Na'wa, et Dhabani forment partie du Canton des Yafa', et que les Awâlik avec toutes leurs sous-divisions et dépendances, ainsi que tout autre district de Yafa' se trouvant au sud et à l'est de la susdite ligne nord-est, appartiennent aux "neuf cantons."

Le Commissaire Ottoman ajoute que dans le voisinage de Cheikh Said, les [illegible] autres, du côté Ottoman ont eu l'habitude de se faire procurer de l'eau

des sources se trouvant du côté des Soubéla, et qu'il espère qu'il n'y ait aucun inconvénient à ce qu'on continue à l'avenir de [illegible] passe.

Mr. Fitzmaurice déclare que, de la part de son Gouvernem[illegible] aucun inconvénient à cet égard

Les Commissaires des deux Gouvernements amis, étant d[illegible] ce procès-verbal, le signent en double et échangent les copies conformes.

[illegible] MOUSTAPHA, Colon[illegible]
Commissaire Ottoman
G. [illegible] FITZMAURICE,
Commissaire Britannique

Tourbe (Cheikh Saïd) [illegible]

[illegible]

XX[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]
XX	[illegible] by the [illegible] [illegible] LXX the line runs straight to point LXX [illegible] Point XXI is marked by [illegible] The two [illegible] [illegible] XXI
XX[illegible]	[illegible]

G. H. FITZMAURICE
[illegible] Commissioner.

[illegible]

[illegible] Djebel-[illegible] Moshrak [illegible] XXI [illegible] un point sur le contrefort septentrional du Djebel Tafâsu [illegible] Ouadi Ghoréf (29) à un point situé un demi kilomètre [illegible] Khabal (36), monte au sommet du Djebel Nouman (LXVII) [illegible] tourne dans une direction sud-ouest et suit la ligne de partage [illegible] et par les points Barh-[illegible] [illegible]-Hama (un col [illegible] [illegible] (49), [illegible] LXVIII [illegible] du Djebel [illegible]

[illegible] sommet le plus élevé du [illegible] Cheikh M[illegible] LXXIII sur sa carte [illegible]

MOUSTAPHA, [illegible]

[illegible]
[illegible] *Commissaire Britannique.*

[illegible]

[illegible]

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received June 7.)

THE Under Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram [illegible] the 31st ultimo, relative to the Turkish military post on Bubyan [illegible]

[illegible] 6, 1905.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] Your letter of the 14th March last. Secret [illegible] g left Koweit, it is proposed to make a further representation to the [illegible] ment as to Bubyan Island at an early opportunity. Our right to [illegible] Koweit from time to time will be [illegible] Should the latter's reply be unsatisfactory, we shall have [illegible] puting Agent to Koweit with orders to arrange for establishment [illegible] of a Koweit post. I should be glad to know what support we [illegible] Sheikh in establishing the post. His Majesty's Ambassador at [illegible] Sheikh will be [illegible] ng to take this step

No. 74.

Sir E. Egerton to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 9.)

(No. 95.)

Rome, June 5, 1905.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 142 of the 27th ultimo and [illegible] my telegram of this day's date, I have th[illegible] [illegible] from the Italian Government authorising m[illegible] [illegible] pted the appointment as Umpire in the Muscat Arbitrat[illegible]

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received June 10.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the [illegible] Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosure [illegible] a letter from the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, dated the 11th M[illegible] relative to the trade in arms with Koweit.

India Office, June 8, 1905.

Inclosure 1 in No. 75.

Major Cox to Government of India.

(Confidential.)

Bushire, April 23, [illegible]

I HAVE the honour to refer you to Foreign Department letter, dated the 7th September, 1904, on the subject of the duties of the new Political Agent at Koweit.

2. In paragraph 5 thereof the Government of India expressed their desire to b[illegible] furnished with information regarding the trade in arms with Koweit, and I now have th[illegible] honour to forward, for information, a copy of a recent Report which I have now receiv[illegible] from Captain Knox on the subject.

3. When I have at any time received special intimation from Muscat or elsewhere of the consignment of arms to Koweit, I have asked the Political Agent to apprise Sheikh Mubarak of it; and I have also reminded the British India Steam Navigation Company of the prohibition which exists against the importation of [illegible] into that port.

In view, however, of the somewhat delicate position in which our Representative at Koweit has been placed at first starting, and to the fact that had he shown [illegible] disposition to worry Sheikh Mubarak about this or any other matter, the latter would probably have regarded his presence as a doubtful advantage, and would probably have made things unpleasant for him, it seemed advisable to limit our action to the extent above mentioned and pending any special instructions which the Govern[illegible] of India see fit to communicate to me on the subject, I shall not take any more dec[illegible] a line so far as Koweit is concerned.

I understand, moreover, that an investigation of the arms traffic in the Gulf has formed an item of Mr. J. G. Lorimer's work for the "Gazetteer," and on receipt of his Report the Government of India will be in a position to take the whole question in review as it exists at the present moment.

Inclosure 2 in No. 75.

Captain Knox to Major Cox.

Koweit, February 21, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated the 15th February last, on the subject of the trade in arms and ammunition at Koweit, in which, I am referred to the correspondence q[illegible] instructions contained therein have not by any means been overlooked [illegible] the procuring of reliable and [illegible] information on the subject [illegible]

[illegible] ordinary attitude of the Koweitis, headed by Sheikh Mubarak and his [illegible] to deny flatly, in spite of evident proofs to the contrary, that a trade in a[illegible] which Koweit is concerned, exists at all, and this has been the usual answer I have [illegible] people who are inclined to give any information have enabled me to [illegible] Sheikh Mubarak [illegible] of the Turks and [illegible] British India steamers, [illegible] capturing dhows laden with [illegible] 800 rifles per [illegible]

(*c*.) The remainder are smuggled along in dhows. All these arms come from Muscat and the total annual trade from both sources is estimated at [illegible] rifles.

(*d*.) My informants tell me that these arms, after leaving Koweit, are distr[illegible] equally between Persia and Turkey.

The arms for Persia go by sea to any convenient spot between Mohammerah [illegible] Bushire, but not to Bushire itself.

[illegible] Turkey, except a small proportion that go to the Bedouins and [illegible] go by creeks and by land to Zubair, whence they are again distributed in Bussorah and between Bussorah and Bagdad.

[illegible] been from of the Euphrates the other [illegible] by the best route, one man in five of the tribe is armed with a Martini-Henry rifle. He added that there is an armourer in the tribe who repairs weapons that get out of order and that the price of a good rifle is 100 reals.

If this is correct, there must be a handsome profit in selling to the Bedouins, for Koweit prices are 30 reals for the Martini-Henry and 12 reals for the Mauser.

(*f*.) Sheikh Mubarak takes duty on these arms both by sea and land, apparently both on import and re-export. His profits on the trade cannot be less than 20,000 dollars annually.

(*g*.) Trade has been slack lately, but it is hoped that with the plentiful rainfall we have had lately in the neighbourhood and in Persia, purchasers will be in a position [illegible] trade is likely to be brisk in May and [illegible]

The following is a list of the principal dealers in arms and ammunition:—

Haji Mohammed Ali, Marafi, of Persian extraction.
Mohammed Taqui, also Persian.
Mohammed Janeyti.
[illegible]

[illegible] charges so high a price for his rifles that, it is said, for the last two years he has not been able to sell any. He is not a fool, and it is more likely that his trade is a blind, while the information that he sends to Goguyer at Muscat is no doubt useful in regulating Muscat prices.

Besides these, there are many small pedlars who dabble in the trade from time to time. To keep track of these would be almost impossible. Many of them are not even natives of Koweit, but use Koweit as a convenient distributing centre.

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* Paragraph 5 of Foreign Department letter of September 7, 1904.

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I have, &c.
(Signed) G. P. DEVEY

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The Hague, June 10, 1905

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE A. MOUNSEY

7

H. RUYSSENAERS

CROW

10 1905

respecting

the area [illegible] to the Government of Java, respecting the settlement of the [illegible]

the 2nd April respectively), and it is moreover mentioned in the *procès-verbal* above referred to.

As regards the undelimited portion of the frontier, from the River Buna north-eastwards to the desert, I should be glad to know whether your Lordship considers it will be sufficient to insert in the note a paragraph to the effect that the actual demarcation is postponed to a more favourable moment.

With your Lordship's approval I will ascertain whether this method of recording the results of the negotiations is acceptable to the Porte, and, if so, I shall have the honour of submitting to your Lordship a draft of the proposed note.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 80.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir F. Bertie.

(No. 77. Africa.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June 20, 1905.*

IN my despatch No. 9, Africa, of the 14th January, your Excellency was instructed to call the attention of the French Government, acting in concert with your Italian colleague, to the extent to which Jibuti is made use of as a distributing centre for arms, and to express the hope that they might be willing to take steps for the total suppression of the traffic in arms.

I have now been informed by the French Ambassador that, the matter having been referred to the Minister of Marine, the latter, in consequence of the information which he has obtained, both from the Governor of the French Somali Coast and from the Officer Commanding the naval division of the Indian Ocean, is of opinion that the presence of a cruiser in those waters would be of little use, in view of the measures already taken by the French Administrative authorities for preventing the smuggling of arms. Moreover, the Governor of the French Somali Coast reports that since his arrival in the Colony on the 5th August, 1904, no native vessel flying the French flag has been reported to him as carrying arms or ammunition intended to be landed at any point of the French Coast, or of the neighbouring Italian or British Colonies.

All vessels starting from Jibuti are obliged to proceed to Obock for examination before leaving the Bay of Tadjourah, and in these circumstances it is impossible for them to land arms or ammunition on the French coasts of that bay. All the necessary measures have been taken to enforce observance in the interior of the French Colony of Jibuti of the provisions of the Brussels Act relating to the prohibition of the sale of arms of precision in Africa.

The merchants of the Colony have been informed of the penalties to which they would render themselves liable should it be found that they were selling arms and ammunition to the native races of the Tadjourah region.

Your Excellency will perceive that the above observations of the French Ambassador contain no allusion to the export of arms from Jibuti to the opposite Arabian Coast for re-exportation to that of Africa. As this is the manner in which the traffic is chiefly conducted, it will doubtless be necessary again to approach the French Government on the subject. Before doing so, however, I have thought it advisable to consult the Italian Government, and I inclose a copy of a note which I have addressed to the Italian Ambassador.*

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 81.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Signor Pansa.

Your Excellency, *Foreign Office, June 20, 1905.*

WITH reference to my note of the 28th January, informing M. Carignani of the representations which His Majesty's Ambassador at Paris had been instructed to make to the French Government with a view to their taking steps for the suppression of the traffic in arms at Jibuti, I have the honour to state that the French Government have

* No. 81.

informed me that no arms or munitions of war are ever exported from Jibuti either to any other point of their own territory in those parts or to the neighbouring Italian and British possession. They further assert that every step that is possible, with a view to the execution in the interior of the provisions of the Brussels Act, has already been taken. They make no allusion, however, to the question of the export of arms from Jibuti to the opposite Arabian coast for reintroduction on that of Africa.

As this is the manner in which the traffic complained of is chiefly conducted, it would appear necessary again to call the attention of the French Government to the matter.

I have therefore the honour to request your Excellency to ascertain the views of the Italian Government as to whether further joint representations should be made by the Italian and British Ambassadors at Paris.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 82.

Consul Devey to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 21.)

(No. 1.)
My Lord, *Jeddah, June 10, 1905.*

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith direct, for the information of the Office, copy of a despatch, No. 64, of to-day's date which is being sent to His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. P. DEVEY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 82.

Consul Devey to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 64.)
Sir, *Jeddah, June 10, 1905.*

I HAVE the honour to forward a Memorandum by Vice-Consul Dr. S. M. Husnie, which affords confirmation to a Reuter's telegram of the 6th instant, recounting that "the rebels have captured Kataba and Ibb (Abha), and are now investing Taiz," published in London.

The troops in Asir are said to have been two battalions at Confidah, two scattered along the road thence to Abha, and one only in the latter place; but all have now fallen back to Confidah. These battalions would be the four of the 54th and one of the 53rd Regiment. The Colonel Commanding the 54th Regiment has been employed in Hedjaz during the last eighteen months.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. P. DEVEY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 82.

Memorandum.

(Confidential.)

NEWS has arrived here a few days ago that insurrection in Asir has lately taken alarming proportions.

The insurgents, under the leadership of Ahmed-bin-Aiz, the Chief Sheikh of the country, have raided Abha, the head-quarters of the local administration, and compelled the Turkish Mutessarif and the troops to evacuate the town. The officials have been allowed to carry with them only their personal effects, while all the Government property has been confiscated by the Sheikh. The Mutessarif has arrived at Confidah, and has informed the higher authorities in Yemen and Hedjaz, and is waiting for help.

It is said that the Vali of Hedjaz, Ahmed Ratib Pasha, is trying to utilize the influence of the Grand Sharif to bring Sheikh Ahmed-bin-Aiz to terms. The father of the present Grand Sharif, Mohammed-bin-Aun, had married the daughter of Mohammed-bin-Farih, brother of Sheikh Aiz, and the late Grand Sharif Abdulla, the brother of Sharif Aun-ar-Rafik, has married the daughter of Sheikh Aiz, and it is

believed by his Excellency Ahmed Ratib Pasha that on account of these family relations the Grand Sharif will be able to exercise favourable influence to create better feeling between the Arabs of Asir and the Turks. But I believe the present Grand Sharif has no influence in Asir neither for good nor bad, and therefore the efforts of Ahmed Ratib Pasha will prove fruitless in the matter.

(Signed) S. MOHAMMAD HUSAIN.

Jeddah, June 9, 1905.

It is also reported that for a long time there has been no Mutessarif at Abha, and that a military officer has been acting as Mutessarif. I am unable to ascertain the number of Turkish troops that were in Asir and Abha, but it is believed that their number was very small.

S. M. H.

No. 83.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 21.)

(No. 415.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, June 14, 1905.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith, copy of a despatch from Colonel Maunsell, Military Attaché to this Embassy, reporting on the progress of events in the Yemen and the proposed plan of campaign.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 83.

Lieutenant-Colonel Maunsell to Sir N. O'Conor.

Sir, *Therapia, June 13, 1905.*

I HAVE the honour to report as follows on the present state of affairs in the Yemen and progress of events there.

After a prolonged discussion at the Palace, during which the inadvisability of sending his best troops to Yemen was represented to the Sultan, it has now been decided not to send the Anagza and Kaisarie divisions for service there.

It was represented as endangering the military situation in Europe if so large a force as two divisions of the 1st Corps were withdrawn, and these counsels prevailed with His Majesty, so that now only the 16 battalions of the Kharput and Malatia Redif Brigades are being mobilized and are on their way to Alexandretta, where the advance troops will soon arrive. But it will require at least another month or six weeks before this division can arrive complete at Hodeida.

Last week the final plans for the reconquest of the Yemen were sanctioned by the Sultan, and will be carried out when sufficient troops have been collected at Hodeida.

A plan was first drawn up in the War Office, then sent up to the Palace, where it was entirely altered by the special Commission under the presidency of Enver Reshdi Pasha, which sits at Yildiz to advise the Sultan.

Many details were arranged personally by His Majesty, and finally General Romei Pasha, an Italian officer attached to the Sultan's staff, was called in to give his opinion.

The general plan consists of an advance into the country on two main lines based on Hodeida and Mokha respectively.

The force is to comprise eight columns, six in the first line and two in reserve, amounting altogether, it is hoped, to 80,000 men, but this total will probably not be reached.

Four columns are to follow the route from Hodeida to Sana through Menakha, and the four others are to move from Mokha by Taiz on Sanaa, rather the longer route of the two.

The formation is to be as follows:—

A central column leading along the main road with right and left flanking columns, following parallel mountain tracks on either hand.

In rear of the centre will follow the transport with stores and ammunition for all the three columns in front of it.

The rear will be brought up by the reserve column.

It was proposed to employ twelve machine guns with the columns, but only four serviceable guns were found available.

This plan looks well on paper, but as many transport animals are still wanting, it will probably be impossible to actually carry it out. Ahmed Feizi Pasha, the new Commander-in-chief, has arrived at Hodeida and great things are expected of him, as he has some thirty years' experience in the country, knows all the leading men and the topography of the country.

The Izbarta and Riss Redif Brigades have arrived at Hodeida, but the want of transport animals for a movement inland is being found very serious and nothing can be done until sufficient are collected.

Of 2,000 animals ordered to be collected in Syria last April, only 500 have been shipped up to date, and there seems little likelihood of any more being found there.

The Arabs have removed inland any animals in the vicinity of Hodeida, and there is also great difficulty in collecting the necessary stores and provisions. Meanwhile the Mission under Shakir Pasha has been liberally provided with money, and is endeavouring to come to some temporary arrangement with the Imam until the troops are ready to advance.

However, the Imam appears to be consolidating his power, the important position of Ibb on the Taiz-Sana Road, with Katabu, having fallen into his hands. Also the movement is said to be gaining ground in Asir, and even among the leading Arab tribes east of Mecca.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. R. MAUNSELL, *Lieutenant-Colonel, Military Attaché.*

No. 84.

Foreign Office to India Office.

Sir, *Foreign Office June 23, 1905.*

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to inclose, for the information of the Secretary of State for India, copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople relative to the settlement of the Aden frontier question.*

Lord Lansdowne proposes, if Mr. Brodrick concurs, to approve Sir N. O'Conor's proposal to arrange for an exchange of notes in the manner described in his despatch. It will be observed that his Excellency asks whether it will be sufficient to insert a paragraph in the note to the effect that the actual demarcation of the undelimited portion of the frontier from the River Bana north-eastwards to the desert is postponed to a more favourable moment.

Lord Lansdowne will be glad to be favoured with Mr. Brodrick's observations on this point.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 85.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 26.)

(No. 417.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, June 15, 1905.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 356 of the 20th ultimo, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith a despatch from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Hodeida, reporting upon the present state of the rebellion in the Yemen, and on the general condition of the province.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

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* No. 78.

Inclosure in No. 85.

Vice-Consul Richardson to Consul Devey.

(No. 61.)

Hodeida, May 16, 1905.

Sir,

THE steam-ship "Fuad," belonging to His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, arrived here from Constantinople on the 12th instant, bringing General Shakir Pasha, Chief Commissioner of Reforms, and the other members of the Commission recently appointed to visit the Yemen.

Forty-five persons, previously banished from this province to Rhodes and the other Turkish islands, chiefly during the régime of Hilmi Pasha, returned by the above-mentioned vessel.

About a month ago, a notorious Arab Sheikh, Mahomed Dahl, a personal friend of the present Imam, who was exiled to Rhodes some ten years ago as an undesirable person in the Yemen, for incessantly inciting the Arabs to rise against the Turks, was permitted to return here.

It would appear that this man gave certain assurances to the Palace that he was in a position to effect an amicable settlement between the Ottoman Government and the Imam.

However, the local authorities are distrustful of the Sheikh, and are unwilling to allow him to visit the Imam.

I believe that the Adjoint Vali has advised Yildiz to send Mahomed Dahl back to Rhodes, on the ground that he is still a dangerous person if permitted to escape to the interior.

Sana'a has now been nearly vacated by the Turks, the delay being due to the limited transport available.

The Vali, Tewfik Bey, and the Commander-in-chief, Riza Pasha, reached Menakha about five or six days ago.

Numbers of officials and merchants from the surrendered capital are daily pouring into Hodeida.

With reference to the terms of the capitulation of Sana'a, I learn from a Turkish friend, who has recently arrived from the latter town, and in close relation with one of the Commissioners delegated to arrange the same with the Imam, that they include the following, besides surrender of the city with its fortifications, guns, and munitions, &c.:—

1. The permanent withdrawal of the Turks from Hajje (captured by the insurgents three months ago), and the fortified positions maintained north and south-east of Sana'a, now in the hands of the Arabs.

2. The surrender of Taweela, Hujjur, and it is even believed, of Menakha and Ta'iz also.

The first of the above places, whose brave garrison of eighty men under Colonel Ibrahim Bey had gallantly held out for the past six months, retired from their position after the fall of Sana'a.

The Turkish Commissioners signed the terms of capitulation with reference to the cession of Hujjur, Menakha, and Ta'iz conditionally that the Commandants of these respective places would accept the same; the Vali and the Commander-in-chief assuring the Imam that the three above-mentioned fortified towns were outside the pale of their control in a matter like this. Hujjur is still holding out, and well provisioned and strongly defended; Ta'iz is in occupation of the Turkish forces; whereas Menakha, though understood to be invested from the north-west, has natural defences, and is garrisoned by Albanian troops and not likely to fall.

3. An armistice to be proclaimed for a period of one year, the Turks engaging to desist from hostilities.

As regards the above condition, it is a significant fact that the large reinforcements expected have ceased to arrive during the past ten days.

It is hardly necessary to observe, that should this really have been one of the terms of surrender, the Turkish Government is not at all likely to accept or abide by the pledged undertaking entered into by its Representatives.

The Imam has proposed to administer the whole of the mountainous districts of the Yemen where the Zaidi element predominates, and to pay in return to the Sultan an annual tribute, and to maintain at his expense a garrison of 5,000 Ottoman troops at Sana'a.

It is also suggested that the Palace receive a deputation for the purpose of presenting the grievances of the Yemenites, and representing the misrule and tyranny of the Turkish administrative and military officials.

Reports reach me that there are already dissensions between the various Arab tribesmen on account of the generous terms accorded to the Turks. The bazaar recently established outside the walls of Sana'a by the Imam's Lieutenant was sacked a few days ago by certain of the discontented tribes.

The new Military Commander for the Yemen, Ahmed Fezi Pasha, has not yet arrived, though daily expected.

Abundant rains have fallen all over the province, and the price of food-stuffs at Sana'a has gone down considerably, and is lower than was the case in normal and even good years, under Ottoman occupation.

Hodeida has had an unprecedented big rainfall during the months of March and April, unknown for the past thirty years.

A Turkish medical officer, who was attached to the military hospital at Sana'a throughout the six months' siege, estimates the mortality from starvation and disease alone among the garrison, at between 6,000 and 7,000. He further states that the Turkish corpses strewn along the route between Sana'a and Menakha should exceed 1,000.

There is no reliable information regarding the progress of events in the vicinity of Ta'iz, but the rumour current here for some time past that Riza Pasha and the Mutessarif of the Sandjak, with 1,000 men are besieged at Ibb, daily gains ground.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. A. RICHARDSON.

No. 86.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 26.)

(No. 430.)

My Lord,

Therapia, June 20, 1905.

I UNDERSTAND that the news received by the Turkish Government during the last few days represents the insurrection in the province of Arsir, where the Sheikh Ali-bin-Ayiz is reported to be inciting the tribes to revolt and to be blockading Ebba, the capital of the Sanjak, as having again assumed alarming proportions.

Energetic military measures have been decided on, and the 19th (Kharput) Nizam Division of the Fourth Army Corps is to be sent to Conifdah, eight battalions being ordered to march at once to Alexandretta for embarkation. The strength of these battalions, moreover, is to be raised to 1,000 men each, by calling out the men of the active reserve (Ikhtiat) to rejoin the colours.

It has been decided also to try the experiment of sending a regiment of irregular Hamidieh cavalry to the Yemen, and the 40th Regiment, furnished by the section of the Kara Papakh tribe inhabiting the Vilayet of Sivas, has been selected for the purpose, probably as being more amenable to orders than any of the regiments of Kurdistan proper. On the other hand, the dispatch of the Erzeroum, Erzinghian, Diarbekir, and Kharput Redifs, previously decided on by the Military Commission, has been countermanded.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 87.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received June 28.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated 20th June, relative to the proposed establishment of a Koweit post on Bubiyan Island.

India Office, June 27, 1905.

Inclosure in No. 87.

Government of India to Mr. Brodrick.

(Telegraphic.) P. *June* 26, 1905.

KOWEIT: Your telegram of the 31st ultimo.

We have received and forwarded to you a Report by Cox about Bubiyan Island. Report will reach India Office on the 7th July. Idea of establishing a post on Bubiyan is welcomed by Shiekh of Koweit, (1) provided that full moral support is given to him by the British Government and that the latter intimate to the Turkish Government their recognition of his claims to the island, and support him in instituting the post; (2) as regards material support, Sheikh makes the following stipulations:—

(*a*.) That British Political Agent shall be maintained at Koweit as a practically permanent arrangement.

(*b*.) That a man-of-war shall visit Koweit and the Khor Abdullah occasionally.

(*c*.) That British Government shall contribute 100 rupees a month for maintenance of guard, besides a sum of 500 rupees for erection of the necessary quarters. Expenditure under this head would be less than the amount of subsidy sanctioned in the telegram from the Secretary of State, dated the 17th January, 1899.

The above terms are, in our opinion, fair, and we recommend that they be accepted in their entirety.

It has been suggested by Sheikh that more than one post should be established, and before the question of the number of posts, and their location, is settled it would be well to sanction visit to Khor Abdullah by Political Resident.

(Repeated to Political Resident, Persian Gulf.)

No. 88.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Mounsey.

(No. 60.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 30, 1905.

YOU are aware that an Arbitral Tribunal is to meet at The Hague on the 25th July next, for the purpose of deciding the questions which have been referred to it, under the Agreement between Great Britain and France, signed in London on the 13th October, 1904, respecting the right of certain Muscat dhows to fly the French flag, &c.

His Majesty's Government have selected Mr. Ronald Graham, First Secretary in His Majesty's Diplomatic Service, to be British Agent, under Article III of the above Agreement.

I have to inform you that you are appointed Secretary to assist the British Agent on this occasion, and that Mr. W. F. Craies, whose services have been retained for the preparation of the British Case, Counter-Case, and Argument, will accompany the Agent to The Hague in the capacity of Counsel.

I request that you will make the necessary communication to the Secretary-General of the International Bureau.

I am, &c.

(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 89.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Ronald Graham.

Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 30, 1905.

YOU are aware that an Arbitral Tribunal is to meet at The Hague on the 25th July next for the purpose of deciding the questions which have been referred to it under the Agreement between Great Britain and France, signed in London on the 13th October, 1904, respecting the right of certain Muscat dhows to fly the French flag, &c.

I have to inform you that His Majesty's Government have selected you to be the British Agent under Article III of the above Agreement.

You are hereby authorized to act in that capacity.

I am, &c.

(Signed) LANSDOWNE.
